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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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## Synopsis of Senate Committee Amendments

(This synopsis does not address amendments that may have been adopted on the Senate Floor.)

### H.B. 24 of the 133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly

#### Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources

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### Limited license for drugs used for animal euthanasia

Authorizes the State Board of Pharmacy to issue a limited license to the office of a county dog warden (as the Board currently issues for animal shelters) solely for the purpose of purchasing, possessing, and administering drugs for euthanizing animals and pre-euthanizing drugs for inducing anesthesia, sedation, or unconsciousness.

Prohibits a dog warden or a dog warden's agent or employee from performing euthanasia by lethal injection, or administering pre-euthanasia drugs, unless the facility in which the dog warden, agent, or employee works is licensed.

Requires a dog warden or a dog warden's agent or employee to complete a euthanasia technician certification course as a condition of licensure.

Requires the State Veterinary Medical Licensing Board, in consultation with the State Board of Pharmacy, to approve substances to be used for lethal injection of an animal rather than requiring both Boards to approve those substances as in current law.

Requires the State Board of Pharmacy, in consultation with the State Veterinary Medical Licensing Board, to approve pre-euthanasia drugs.

Removes the order of preference in current law regarding authorized methods for euthanizing an animal when using a lethal solution.

### Chemical capture of companion animals

Authorizes the State Board of Pharmacy to grant a chemical capture classification to an animal shelter or county dog warden's limited license.

Specifies that a chemical capture classification allows the holder to purchase, possess, and administer a combination of drugs for chemical capture.

Specifies that chemical capture includes using an anesthetic drug on a companion animal (for example, a dog or cat) to immobilize and capture or attempt to immobilize and capture the animal.

Establishes requirements and procedures with which an animal shelter or county dog warden must comply to receive a chemical capture classification designation.

Requires the Board to adopt rules governing chemical capture.

Specifies that only a certified officer may chemically capture an animal.

Requires a person to complete specified training requirements prior to becoming a certified officer.

Specifies that a certified officer may chemically capture a companion animal to limit injury to the officer, the animal or another animal, or the public.

States that chemical capture of a companion animal by a certified officer is not an act of cruelty, that possession or control of dangerous drugs is authorized when in the scope of duties by a certified officer for use in chemical capture, and that the Veterinarians Law does not apply to an act of chemical capture by a certified officer.

Establishes various prohibitions related to the chemical capture of a companion animal.

## **Veterinarians and veterinary technicians**

Clarifies that the bill's provisions governing chemical capture and animal euthanasia do not preclude a licensed veterinarian or veterinarian technician from engaging in the practice of veterinary medicine.

## **Impounded dogs**

Revises the law governing the disposition of a dog that is seized and impounded by a dog warden and not redeemed by its owner.

By doing so, it does all of the following:

-- Eliminates the requirement that a dog warden or poundkeeper first donate a dog to a nonprofit agency that trains assistance dogs when requested;

-- Authorizes a dog warden or poundkeeper to adopt out or donate the dog to any person, including a nonprofit agency that trains assistance dogs and a nonprofit teaching or research institution or organization that is certified by the Director of Health as being engaged in teaching or research concerning the prevention and treatment of diseases of human beings or animals; and

-- Allows a dog warden to charge an adoption fee for any dog that is adopted.

## **Uniformity of animal fighting and bestiality prohibitions**

Reenacts current law provisions governing animal fighting and bestiality, which were found inapplicable in the Ohio Sixth Appellate District; thus making those provisions enforceable in that District (Erie, Fulton, Huron, Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, Williams, and Wood counties).

By doing so, makes animal fighting activity prohibitions and bestiality prohibitions uniformly enforceable across the state, including in the Sixth Appellate District.