

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sectional Analysis **House Bill 335: Disaster Animal Rescue** **34-LS1531\A**

“An Act relating to veterinarians and veterinarian technicians; establishing a pet and service animal disaster emergency plan; relating to the Alaska State Emergency Response Commission; and relating to local emergency planning committees.”

Section 1:

Amends AS 08.98.125 to include a section extending exemption to licensure for veterinarians and veterinary technicians who are licensed in and reside in another state and provide assistance under the pet and service animal disaster emergency plan established by AS 26.23.040(h).

Section 2:

Amends AS 26.23.040 to add a new subsection directing the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management to prepare and maintain a pet and service animal disaster emergency plan. This plan must establish a process to be followed during an emergency for evacuation, transport and temporary shelter of pets and service animals; to identify evacuation shelters designed to accept and temporarily house pets and service animals and to establish an identification system to facilitate reunification of pets or service animals and owners. The plan must implement a public information program that at a minimum provides guidance to owners to help create evacuation plans, create an emergency checklist for evacuation and identify local organizations owners can contact for help. This plan will also authorize properly contained animals to be transported on public transportation and establish procedures for out of state veterinarians and veterinary technicians to provide assistance within Alaska during a disaster.

Section 3:

Amends AS 26.23.071 to change the makeup of the Alaska State Emergency Response Commission, adding one position that must be a member of a statewide association of animal control officers, a staff member of an animal shelter or other animal welfare professional operating in Alaska, changing the number of Commission members from 7 to 8.

Section 4:

Amends AS 26.23.073 to reflect changes made in Section 3.

Section 5:

Amends AS 26.23.073(e) to reflect changes made in Section 3.