



H.B. 335 Disaster Emergency Plan for Pets

REPRESENTATIVE EISCHEID

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PURPOSE

Amends state law by requiring Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management to develop a formal, comprehensive pet and service animal disaster plan.

FISCAL IMPACT

NONE

PUBLIC & STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT

- Developed bill language in collaboration with local shelters that responded to the October 2025 Typhoon, to address gaps observed during response operations.
- Many families consider pets part of the household, and reluctance to evacuate without animals is a documented barrier to public compliance with emergency orders.

WHAT THE BILL DOES

- Establishes requirements for the evacuation, transportation, and temporary sheltering of pets during disasters to enhance public and animal safety.
- Authorizes out-of-state veterinarians and veterinary technicians to provide emergency assistance during declared disasters pursuant to the state emergency plan.
- Adds an animal welfare representative to the Alaska State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) to serve as a liaison between SERC and local animal shelters housing displaced animals.
- Adds animal care and control personnel to each district's local emergency planning committee.
- Requires the development of pet and service animal evacuation plans.
- Requires identification of pet-friendly evacuation shelters.
- Authorizes the transport of pets in carriers on public transportation during declared evacuations.
- Requires the establishment of a pet identification and reunification system.
- Requires the development of a public information program for pet owners on disaster preparedness, response, and evacuation.