

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 251

BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHEXNAYDER

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

AGRICULTURE: Provides relative to the declaration of abandoned animals after a declared emergency

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 3:2452(B) and to enact R.S. 3:2452(C), relative to the  
3 declaration of abandoned animals after a declared emergency; to provide  
4 requirements for declaring an animal abandoned after a declared emergency; and to  
5 provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 3:2452(B) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 3:2452(C) is  
8 hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §2452. Abandoned animals

10 \* \* \*

11 B. After a declared emergency, an animal shall be considered abandoned  
12 when such animal is receiving temporary shelter services in a facility operated by the  
13 Department of Agriculture and Forestry and the owner has not claimed the animal  
14 within thirty days of the declared emergency and a reasonable effort has been made  
15 to contact the owner.

16 C. The owner of an abandoned animal shall be deemed to have relinquished  
17 all rights and claims to such animal by virtue of such abandonment, except as  
18 provided in R.S. 3:2454(B).

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 251 Reengrossed

2017 Regular Session

Schexnayder

**Abstract:** Provides relative to the declaration of abandoned animals after a declared emergency.

Present law provides that an animal is considered abandoned when the owner of the animal has not paid the charge for veterinary services or for boarding within 10 days after rendition to the owner of the invoice for such services or boarding and no other agreement with the owner has been reached for the payment of such charge for services or boarding.

Proposed law retains present law and adds requirements for declaring an animal abandoned after a declared emergency. Specifies that an animal is declared abandoned after a declared emergency when the animal is receiving temporary shelter services in a facility operated by the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry and the owner does not claim the animal within 30 days of the declared emergency.

(Amends R.S. 3:2452(B); Adds R.S. 3:2452(C))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development to the original bill:

1. Specify that the shelter in which the animal is receiving temporary services must be a shelter in a facility operated by the department for proposed law to apply.
2. Decrease the amount of time that an owner has to claim an animal receiving temporary shelter services after a declared emergency from 90 days to 30 days.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Make a technical change.