

# FISCAL NOTE

## SB 2948 - HB 2879

March 5, 2004

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Provides that any offense specified as cruelty to animals that is perpetrated on a dog owned by any new enforcement department or agency will be punished as a Class C felony. Further provides that a dog owned by any law enforcement agency shall be considered to be valued at no less than \$10,000 for the grading of the offense of theft which would be punished as a Class C felony. Cruelty to animals is currently punished as a Class B or a Class A misdemeanor depending on the circumstances.

### ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

**Increase State Expenditures - \$7,500/Incarceration\***  
**Decrease Local Govt. Expenditures - Not Significant**  
**Decrease Local Govt. Revenues - Not Significant**

Estimate assumes one Class C felony conviction every other year for the injury or theft of a dog owned by a law enforcement agency. There will also be a decrease in local government expenditures and revenues when the offense is elevated to a felony. Such decrease is not estimated to be significant.

*\*Section 9-4-210, TCA, requires that: For any law enacted after July 1, 1986, which results in a net increase in periods of imprisonment in state facilities, there shall be appropriated from recurring revenues the estimated operating cost of such law. The amount appropriated for operating cost, in current dollars, shall be based upon the highest cost of the next 10 years, beginning with the year the additional sentence to be served impacts the correctional facilities population.*

### CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director

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