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H.729

Senators White, Sears, Baruth and Benning move that the Senate proposal of amendment be amended by inserting a new Sec. 38 and its reader assistance heading to read as follows:

* * * Report on Unification of Animal Welfare and Related Public Safety
Functions * * *

Sec. 38. UNIFICATION OF ANIMAL WELFARE AND RELATED
PUBLIC SAFETY FUNCTIONS; REPORT

(a) On or before January 15, 2023, the Department of Public Safety, in consultation with the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets and any other State agency, division, or department where domestic animal welfare functions reside, shall report to the House and Senate Committees on Government Operations with a plan to unify the domestic animal welfare and related public safety functions across State government. The report, which shall include draft legislation to enact the plan, shall focus on the intersection of existing domestic animal welfare functions and the role of the Department of Public Safety and shall include:

(1) an inventory of all existing domestic animal welfare and related public safety functions across all agencies, including citations to existing statutes;

1 (2) an inventory of all personnel, with job descriptions, responsible for
2 carrying out the functions in the inventory required by subdivision (1) of this
3 subsection;

4 (3) a recommended location and position in State government with
5 responsibility for all State domestic animal welfare and related public safety
6 functions, including enforcement;

7 (4) a recommendation on whether to move all domestic animal welfare
8 and related public safety functions to a single agency or to maintain a
9 multiagency approach to be coordinated by the position recommended in
10 subdivision (3) of this subsection; and

11 (5) a plan to ensure that domestic animals transported into the State
12 from other jurisdictions meet health and safety standards and that the
13 businesses that import domestic animals into the State are registered or
14 licensed, or both, and meet health and safety standards.

15 (b) The Department shall engage with the Animal Cruelty Investigation
16 Advisory Board, the Vermont Humane Federation, and other interesting
17 stakeholders as needed to comply with this section.

18 and by renumbering the remaining section to be numerically correct.