

Senate Bill No. 371—Senator Goicoechea

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to animals; authorizing a county to recover the reasonable cost of care and shelter furnished to an animal impounded by the county under certain circumstances; authorizing a county to take certain other actions relating to an impounded animal; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law authorizes the board of county commissioners of a county to enact ordinances: (1) governing the control and protection of animals; (2) regulating or prohibiting the running at large and disposal of animals; and (3) prohibiting cruelty to animals. (NRS 244.189, 244.359) **Section 2** of this bill expands existing law by providing that, if a person is lawfully arrested and detained in a county for more than 7 days, and if the county impounds any animal owned or possessed by the person, the county must: (1) notify the person of the impoundment and request that the person provide to the county the name of any person who is authorized to care for the animal; (2) transfer, under certain circumstances, the animal to any such person; and (3) if the county is unable to transfer the animal to such a person, allow another person to care for the animal temporarily and, with the consent of the person who is arrested and detained, adopt the animal. **Section 2** also authorizes, under certain circumstances, the county to bring an appropriate legal action to recover the reasonable cost of care and shelter of the animal.

EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 2. Chapter 171 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. If a person is lawfully arrested and detained in a county for more than 7 days, and if any animal owned or possessed by the person is impounded by the county after the arrest, the county must notify the person of the impoundment of the animal and request that the person provide to the county the name of any person who is authorized to care for the animal. The county must transfer the animal to such a person if the county determines that the person is able to provide adequate care and shelter to the animal. If there is no authorized person who is able to provide adequate care and shelter to the animal, the county may allow another person who is able to provide adequate care and shelter to care for the animal temporarily and, with the consent of the



person who is arrested and detained, allow the other person to adopt the animal.

2. If a person is convicted of the crime for which he or she was lawfully arrested, the county may by appropriate legal action recover the reasonable cost of any care and shelter furnished to the animal by the county, including, without limitation, imposing a lien on the animal for the cost of such care and shelter.

3. As used in this section, "animal" means any dog, cat, horse or other domesticated animal. The term:

(a) Includes any chicken, pig, rabbit or other domesticated animal which is maintained as a pet.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (a), does not include any cattle, sheep, goats, swine or poultry.

Sec. 3. This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.

