RABIES – AUTHORITY TO EUTHANIZE ANIMAL



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HOUSE BILL 4288 (H-1)

Sponsor: Rep. Ruth Ann Jamnick **House Committee:** Health Policy

FLOOR ANALYSIS - 4/17/02 Analyst(s): Susan Frey

SUMMARY

House Bill 4288 (H-1), as reported by committee, amends the Public Health Code to provide statutory authority for certain local health or animal control officials to order the euthanization of an animal in a case of human exposure to an animal that could be infected with rabies. The bill establishes criteria and consultation requirements before such an order may be issued. The bill does not apply to livestock.

The bill is permissive and will not have any direct state fiscal impact. A local health department may incur an increase in costs if this statutory change prompts an increase in the number of ordered euthanizations and medical tests for rabies of the affected animals. Current administrative rules are not in conflict with this bill, so it is possible that the number of ordered euthanizations will not be significantly affected by this bill.