

BILL NO. BL2018-1201 (SHULMAN) – This ordinance would amend Chapter 8.12 of the Metro Code of Laws regarding animal control regulations.

Metro Code Sec. 8.12.030 prohibits cruelty to animals. Under current law, pregnant animals, nursing females, or animals less than six months old are not permitted to be outdoors during periods of inclement weather unless accompanied by a custodian, keeper, or handler. Inclement weather is defined in part as a heat index of ninety-five (95) degrees Fahrenheit or above, as determined by the National Weather Service. Additionally, pets are not allowed to be tethered during periods of extreme weather, including a heat index of ninety-five (95) degrees Fahrenheit or above, as determined by the National Weather Service.

This ordinance would amend these provisions to apply when there is a heat index of eighty-five (85) degrees Fahrenheit or above, as determined by the National Weather Service.

Fiscal Note: Metro Animal Care and Control (MACC) currently has nine (9) Animal Control Officer positions and thirteen (13) kennel staff. MACC estimates that lowering the heat index restriction to 85 degrees, while still maintaining all other activities, will require additional staffing consisting of a minimum of two (2) additional Animal Control Officers, three (3) additional kennel staff positions, one (1) clerical staff position, and three (3) additional trucks. The cost for the additional staff and equipment would be approximately \$530,715.