152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE

BILL:	**HOUSE BILL NO. 124**
SPONSOR:	**Representative Morrison**
DESCRIPTION:	**AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 7 AND TITLE 16 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO NOISE CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS FOR PROTECTION AND CONTROL OF ANIMALS AND BARKING DOGS.**

Assumptions:

1. This Act becomes effective upon signature by the Governor and will be implemented one year following enactment.

2. This Act amends Title 16 of the Delaware Code related to the enforcement of laws for the protection and control of animals and barking dogs.

3. This Act allows the Department of Health and Social Services, Office of Animal Welfare (OAW) to enforce fines and penalties related to dog barking for an extended period, defined as continuously for 15 minutes or more, or intermittently for 30 minutes or more.

4. Upon enactment, the OAW anticipates the need for 3.0 FTEs, Investigator I positions, which will allow for one position assigned to each county. These positions will be responsible for the enforcement of this Act. The estimated costs include projected salaries, including other employment costs (OECs) at a rate of 31.93%, as well as administrative and one-time costs as follows:
    a. Personnel Costs (annualized) of $196,520.
    b. One-time costs of $14,450 include uniforms, equipment and supplies, computers, and initial training expenses.
    c. Ongoing administrative costs of $40,406 include fleet rental, network costs, supplies and training expenses.

5. For purposes of this analysis, costs include three months of administrative and personnel funding in Fiscal Year 2024 to allow for the initial hiring and onboarding of the positions to ensure adequate preparation for enactment in Fiscal Year 2025.

6. Personnel costs are assumed to increase at a rate of 2% annually.

Cost:

	Ongoing	**One-time**	**Total Costs**
Fiscal Year 2024:	$59,232	$14,450	$73,682
Fiscal Year 2025:	$240,857	N/A	$240,857
Fiscal Year 2026:	$244,866	N/A	$244,866

Prepared by Victoria Brennan
Office of the Controller General