

**DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS**

**AMENDMENT DATE:** July 6, 2009  
**POSITION:** Neutral  
**SPONSOR:** Humane Society of the United States

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 135  
**AUTHOR:** D. Florez

**BILL SUMMARY: Animal Abuse: Cattle: Tail Docking**

This bill would expand the current prohibition of tail docking of horses to include tail docking of cattle and would make docking of cattle a misdemeanor, except in emergency situations as provided. "Docking" is amputating half or more of the solid part of the tail.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

This bill would have no fiscal impact on the state.

Any local government costs resulting from the mandate in this measure would not be state-reimbursable because the mandate only involves the definition of a crime or the penalty for conviction of a crime.

**COMMENTS**

Existing law makes it a misdemeanor to dock the tail of a horse or to import any horse with a docked tail into the state. Existing law also requires the owner or user of a horse with a docked tail to register the animal with the county clerk where the horse is kept.

This bill would make it misdemeanor to dock the tail of cattle, except when performed as an emergency procedure consistent with the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act.

Cattle docking is a management practice that was initially intended to improve convenience for certain milking personnel and to enhance animal, worker, and milk cleanliness. The California Department Food and Agriculture notes that there is currently no credible research indicating management, production, or animal health benefits to justify docking.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO LA CO RV	PROP 98	FC	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)			Fund Code
				2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	
8885/Comm St Mndt	SO	No		No/Minor Fiscal Impact			0001

Analyst/Principal (0222) R. Baker	Date	Program Budget Manager Todd Jerue	Date
--------------------------------------	------	--------------------------------------	------

Department Deputy Director	Date
----------------------------	------

Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____ Position Disapproved _____
--------------------	-----	-------	---

**BILL ANALYSIS** Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)