

HOUSE REPUBLICAN STAFF ANALYSIS

Bill:	House File 2521 (HF 2157)	House Committee:	PASSED February 10 (21-0)
Committee:	Local Government	House Floor:	
Floor Manager:	Representative Watkins	Senate Floor:	
Date:	February 23, 2026	Governor:	
Staff:	Jason Covey (1-3626)		

Clarifying Abandonment of Animals

- Amends to code to require an animal shelter volunteer or employee to accept the dog/cat to not be considered abandoned.
- Under current law county attorneys cannot prosecute individuals who drop animals off outside the shelter.
- **FISCAL NOTE:** The fiscal impact of the Bill cannot be determined, but is anticipated to be minimal.

Section by Section Analysis

Section – Abandonment of cats and dogs — penalties (Iowa Code 717B.8(2)(b))

Amends code to require that a dog or cat must be physically accepted by a volunteer or employee at the animal shelter to not be considered abandonment.