

A BILL to amend the Code of the State of _____ relating to special license plates for supporters of dog and cat sterilization programs.

Sec. 1—ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL ANIMAL WELFARE LICENSE PLATE

(a) The Department of Motor Vehicles, in consultation with local humane societies and established animal welfare groups, shall design and make available for issuance pursuant to this article, special animal protection design license plates as described in this section. The special design license plates shall bear a distinctive full-plate graphic design depicting a dog or dogs and a cat or cats. Any person who is the registered owner or lessee of a passenger vehicle, commercial, vehicle, or trailer registered with the department, or who makes application for an original registration or renewal registration of any such vehicle may, upon payment of the additional fees set forth in Sec. 2, apply for and be issued a set of special animal protection design license plates. These plates may either be issued with a combination of numbers and letters as directed by the department or by a combination of numbers or letters or both as requested by the applicant, provided this request does not carry connotations offensive to good taste or decency or which would be misleading or duplicative.

Sec. 2—FEES

In addition to the regular fees for an original registration or renewal of registration, the following additional fees shall be paid for the issuance, renewal, or transfer of the special design license plates authorized pursuant to this section:

- (1) For the original issuance of the plates, forty dollars (\$40).
- (2) For a renewal of registration with the plates, thirty-five dollars (\$35).
- (3) For transfer of the plates to another vehicle, fifteen dollars (\$15).
- (4) For each substitute replacement plate, thirty dollars (\$30).

Sec. 3—DISPOSITION OF FUNDS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF PET OVERPOPULATION FUND

After deducting its administrative costs under this section, the department shall deposit the additional revenue derived from the issuance, renewal, transfer, and substitution of special animal protection design license plates, in the State of _____ Pet Overpopulation Reduction

License Plate Fund which is hereby created. Upon appropriation by the Legislature, the money in the Account shall be allocated by the Controller by *pro rata* share to each local jurisdiction in which the vehicles are registered. These funds shall be paid annually to each locality that qualifies for payment and shall be used exclusively for the direct costs of spaying or neutering dogs and/or cats, including feral cats. Each qualifying locality shall annually certify, in a manner prescribed by the Department, that these funds have been used to directly support sterilization programs for dogs and cats developed for the purpose of implementing this article. These funds are intended for use in addition to, and not in place of, funds already allocated for this purpose. If an affected locality does not have such a sterilization program, it shall (i) make the funds available to any private, nonprofit sterilization program for dogs and cats in that locality; (ii) return the funds to the Department; or (iii) refuse the funds. Any funds refused, returned to the Department, or otherwise not paid to an affected locality shall be distributed to other affected localities on a *pro rata* basis.