



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 1013

January Session, 2001

AN ACT CONCERNING DOG FUND REIMBURSEMENTS TO TOWNS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 22-348 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 The [State Treasurer] Commissioner of Agriculture, at the end of
4 each fiscal year, shall [set aside from fees received by him pursuant to
5 section 22-347, ten cents from each dog license issued during the fiscal
6 year. Such sums shall be allocated] request that for each dog license
7 issued during the fiscal year, ten cents is transferred, from fees
8 received pursuant to section 22-347, to The University of Connecticut
9 for investigation and research concerning the cause, diagnosis,
10 treatment and prevention of canine diseases. The balance of such fees,
11 if in excess of five thousand dollars, remaining unexpended on August
12 first following shall be returned, pro rata, to the towns [which] that
13 paid the same, upon certification by the commissioner that the town
14 receiving such rebate has complied with the provisions of this chapter
15 and the regulations adopted hereunder. A balance of five thousand
16 dollars or less of such funds shall be carried into the following fiscal
17 year.

18 Sec. 2. Section 22-341 of the general statutes is repealed and the
19 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

20 (a) Each owner or keeper of a licensed dog shall keep around its
21 neck or body a collar or harness of leather or other suitable material, to
22 which shall be securely attached a tag or plate issued to such person by
23 the town clerk. If any such tag or plate is lost, the owner or keeper of
24 such dog shall forthwith secure a substitute tag or plate from the town
25 clerk, at a cost of fifty cents.

26 (b) The town clerk of each town shall order a sufficient number of
27 such tags or plates from the commissioner, who shall furnish the same
28 at a cost of five cents each, which cost shall be paid by the town on the
29 approval of the town clerk. Any balance of the moneys received by the
30 commissioner after deducting the cost of the tags, the expenses
31 incidental to their distribution to the town clerks and the expenses
32 incidental to the enforcement of the provisions of this chapter, shall be
33 accounted for by the commissioner to the Comptroller, [and paid to
34 the State Treasurer and credited to the dog fund.] The design and the
35 shape of such tags or plates shall be changed each year, and such tags
36 or plates for each year shall be of uniform design and material
37 throughout the state. Any dog found roaming at large upon any public
38 highway or common or upon the premises of any person other than its
39 owner, without a tag as provided in this section, shall be presumed to
40 be an unlicensed dog.

41 Sec. 3. Subsection (c) of section 22-344 of the general statutes is
42 repealed and the following is inserted in lieu thereof:

43 (c) No person shall engage in the business of grooming or
44 maintaining a grooming facility until such person has obtained from
45 the commissioner a license to maintain such facility under such
46 regulations as the commissioner provides as to sanitation, disease and
47 humane treatment of such animals and the protection of the public
48 safety. Upon written application and the payment of a fee of one
49 hundred dollars, the commissioner shall issue such license to be
50 effective until the ensuing December thirty-first provided the
51 commissioner finds (1) that such regulations have been complied with,
52 and (2) in the case of each initial application for such license, that the

53 zoning enforcement official of the municipality wherein such
54 grooming is to be maintained has certified that the facility conforms to
55 the municipal zoning regulations. Such license shall be renewed
56 annually, not later than December [twenty-first] thirty-first, in
57 accordance with the provisions of this section, and may be transferred
58 by the licensee to other premises upon approval of the commissioner.

59 Sec. 4. Section 22-347 of the general statutes is repealed and the
60 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

61 Within thirty days after receipt of the fees for dog licenses and tags,
62 each town clerk shall deduct one dollar for each dog licensed, two
63 dollars for each kennel license issued and fifty cents for each
64 replacement tag issued and pay the balance to the town treasurer or
65 other proper fiscal officer. Each town treasurer or fiscal officer, as the
66 case may be, shall keep a separate dog fund account of all fees received
67 from the town clerk, and all receipts from the municipal animal control
68 officer and expended by [him] said officer under the provisions of this
69 chapter, and shall pay to the [State Treasurer] Commissioner of
70 Agriculture, on September first of each year, fifty per cent of all
71 moneys received from the sale of licenses prior to July first, or forty per
72 cent of all such moneys if the town has made a survey of unlicensed
73 dogs in accordance with the provisions of section 22-349, and include
74 with such payment a statement of the number of licenses issued
75 during such year. All moneys received from licenses sold after June
76 thirtieth and all moneys received from the municipal animal control
77 officer and all license fees returned to the town by the State Treasurer,
78 at the request of the commissioner, under the provisions of section 22-
79 348, as amended by this act, shall be kept by the town treasurer or
80 other fiscal officer in the separate dog fund account. The town
81 treasurer or other fiscal officer shall, on the ensuing September first,
82 send fifty per cent, or forty per cent as the case may be, of all license
83 fees in such account to the [State Treasurer] commissioner, including
84 any penalty fees collected pursuant to section 22-338. All payments to
85 the [State Treasurer] commissioner shall be accompanied by an
86 account thereof in a form prescribed by the [State Treasurer]

87 commissioner and a copy of such account shall be sent to the
88 commissioner. Upon the failure of any town treasurer or other fiscal
89 officer to pay any amount due pursuant to this section, or any portion
90 thereof, within forty-five days from its due date, the [Treasurer]
91 commissioner shall add interest of one and one-fourth per cent per
92 month or fraction thereof on the amount unpaid per month or fraction
93 thereof from the due date of such payment to the date of payment and
94 a penalty in the amount of ten per cent of the amount unpaid or fifty
95 dollars, whichever is greater. All funds in the dog fund account, except
96 such funds as are to be sent to the [State Treasurer] commissioner,
97 shall be used only for the compensation of municipal animal control
98 officers, license certificates, tags, the construction and maintenance of
99 dog pounds, the detention and care of impounded dogs in accordance
100 with section 22-336, municipal animal control officer's equipment, dog
101 supplies and such veterinary fees as are provided for by law or
102 regulations and shall not be used for any other purpose except upon
103 written approval of the commissioner. No fees paid into the treasury of
104 the town for tags or licenses for dogs shall be paid back to the persons
105 from whom they were collected.

106 Sec. 5. Subsection (f) of section 22-355 of the general statutes is
107 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

108 (f) Sheep, goats, horses, hogs, cattle, poultry and domestic rabbits
109 shall be confined or shall be enclosed by a fence or wall of material and
110 height sufficient to restrain them from roaming. In any case in which
111 any town has paid an amount in excess of one hundred dollars for
112 such damage to the owner of any such animal or poultry, and the
113 amount of such damage cannot be collected from the owners, keepers
114 or harborers of such dogs, the selectmen, town manager or other chief
115 executive officer of such town, city or borough shall forward to the
116 [State Treasurer] commissioner a statement of the facts, showing the
117 amount so paid, and the State Treasurer, at the request of the
118 commissioner, shall reimburse such town, city or borough for the
119 amount of such damage, from the funds received by the state under
120 the provisions of this chapter.

121 Sec. 6. Section 22-345 of the general statutes is repealed and the
122 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

123 Any blind, deaf or mobility impaired person who is the owner or
124 keeper of a dog which has been trained and educated to guide and
125 assist [him] such person in traveling upon the public streets or
126 highways or otherwise shall receive a license and tag for such dog
127 from the town clerk of the town where such dog is owned or kept.
128 Such license and tag shall be issued in accordance with the provisions
129 of section 22-340, and no fee shall be required of the owner or keeper
130 of any such dog. When any such dog has not been previously licensed
131 by the town clerk to whom application is being made, such town clerk
132 shall not license such dog or issue to the owner a license and tag unless
133 written evidence is exhibited to [him] such clerk that the dog is trained
134 and educated and intended in fact to perform such guide service for
135 such applicant. Any person who has a dog [between the age of six
136 months and one year] placed with [him] such person temporarily,
137 including for breeding purposes, by a nonprofit organization
138 established for the purpose of training or educating guide dogs to so
139 assist blind, deaf or mobility impaired persons shall receive a license
140 and tag for such dog from the town clerk of the town where such dog
141 is kept. Such license and tag shall be issued in accordance with the
142 provisions of section 22-340, and no fee shall be required for such
143 license and tag, provided such person presents written evidence that
144 such dog was placed with [him] such person by such organization. As
145 used in this section and section 46a-44, "deaf person" means a person
146 who cannot readily understand spoken language through hearing
147 alone and who may also have a speech defect which renders [his] such
148 person's speech unintelligible to most people with normal hearing.

ENV Joint Favorable Subst.

GAE Joint Favorable