



General Assembly

January Session, 2013

Committee Bill No. 5836

LCO No. 3569



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING FOR THE VACCINATION, STERILIZATION AND HEART WORM TESTING OF DOGS AND CATS OWNED BY LOW INCOME PERSONS OR ADOPTED FROM MUNICIPAL OR REGIONAL SHELTERS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 22-380g of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2013*):

3 (a) The Commissioner of Agriculture shall (1) establish an animal
4 population control program to provide for spaying and neutering
5 services to eligible owners of dogs and cats, (2) establish an account to
6 be known as the "animal population control account" that may contain
7 any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account and any
8 balance remaining in said account at the end of any fiscal year shall be
9 carried forward in said account for the fiscal year next succeeding, (3)
10 create a standard dog licensing form and distribute said form to
11 veterinarians or the operators of pet shops, pet grooming facilities,
12 municipal pounds or dog training facilities who voluntarily agree to
13 make such forms available for the convenience of dog owners, (4)
14 establish a program to assist animal control officers and registered

15 nonprofit rescue groups with the sterilization and vaccination of feral
16 cats, [and] (5) establish a program to sterilize and vaccinate dogs and
17 cats owned by a low-income person, and (6) establish a program to
18 assist animal control officers and registered nonprofit rescue groups
19 with the sterilization and vaccination of dogs and cats owned by a low-
20 income person.

21 (b) Not more than ten per cent of the funds deposited in the animal
22 population control account in accordance with subsection (f) of section
23 14-21h, subsection (a) of section 22-338, section 22-380f and section 22-
24 380l shall be used for the sterilization and vaccination of feral cats
25 program in accordance with subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of this
26 section.

27 (c) Not more than [ten] twenty per cent of the funds deposited in the
28 animal population control account in accordance with subsection (f) of
29 section 14-21h, subsection (a) of section 22-338, section 22-380f and
30 section 22-380l shall be used for the sterilization and vaccination of
31 dogs and cats owned by a low-income person pursuant to the
32 [program] programs established under [subdivision] subdivisions (5)
33 and (6) of subsection (a) of this section. Such funds may be distributed
34 directly to animal control officers and registered nonprofit providers of
35 such sterilization and vaccination services for dogs and cats owned by
36 a low-income person.

37 (d) The commissioner may solicit and accept funds from any public
38 or private source of help to carry out the goals of the programs
39 established under subsection (a) of this section, including, but not
40 limited to, the sterilization of feral cats as provided in section 22-339d.
41 A donor may earmark funds for any or all of such programs.

42 (e) Any revenue collected pursuant to the provisions of sections 22-
43 380f and 22-380l shall be deposited in the animal population control
44 account. All money in the account shall be used by the commissioner
45 exclusively for (1) the implementation and promotion of the animal
46 population control program, (2) the costs associated with the

47 administration of such program, provided not more than two hundred
48 twenty-five thousand dollars may be expended for administrative
49 costs per year, and (3) reimbursement of persons completing a training
50 program pursuant to subsections (c) and (d) of section 22-328, for the
51 costs of such program.

52 (f) The commissioner may suspend any or all of the programs at any
53 time that the amount of money available in the account is less than
54 three hundred thousand dollars. The commissioner may reinstate any
55 of the suspended programs when such amount exceeds three hundred
56 thousand dollars.

57 Sec. 2. Section 22-380i of the general statutes is repealed and the
58 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2013*):

59 (a) The program established under section 22-380g, as amended by
60 this act, shall provide for payment to any participating veterinarian of
61 an amount equivalent to the voucher issued pursuant to section 22-
62 380f for each animal sterilization and vaccinations, coincident with
63 sterilization, performed by such veterinarian upon a dog or cat owned
64 by an eligible owner. For a sterilization procedure, such voucher shall
65 be in the amount of one hundred twenty dollars for a female dog, one
66 hundred dollars for a male dog, seventy dollars for a female cat and
67 fifty dollars for a male cat unless such procedure is performed on a
68 dog or cat owned by a low-income person, in which case such voucher
69 shall be in the amount of one hundred dollars for a dog that weighs
70 less than fifty pounds, one hundred forty dollars for a dog that weighs
71 fifty or more pounds and seventy dollars for a cat. In the case of a
72 sterilization fee exceeding the amount of the voucher, the eligible
73 owner shall pay the participating veterinarian the difference between
74 such fee and the amount of the voucher. Such voucher shall be in the
75 amount of twenty dollars, in addition to the amount designated for
76 sterilization, for vaccinations coincident with the sterilization of a dog
77 or cat owned by an eligible owner.

78 (b) The program established under section 22-380g, as amended by

79 this act, shall further provide for a payment to any participating
 80 veterinarian for the presurgical immunization of dogs against rabies,
 81 distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis and parvovirus, or the presurgical
 82 immunization of cats against rabies, feline panleukopenia, calici,
 83 pneumonitis and rhinotracheitis, as the case may be, on animals not
 84 previously immunized. The payment shall be for no more than ten
 85 dollars for each immunization procedure and, in any case, not more
 86 than twenty dollars for one animal. Such veterinarian shall be paid by
 87 the commissioner upon the submission of a voucher, to be provided by
 88 the commissioner and signed by the veterinarian performing such
 89 operation and by the owner, stating that the animal has been
 90 immunized coincident with a spaying or neutering operation under
 91 the program.

92 (c) The program established under section 22-380g, as amended by
 93 this act, shall further provide for a payment to any participating
 94 veterinarian for all necessary vaccinations, as determined by such
 95 participating veterinarian, that are administered by such performing
 96 veterinarian upon a dog or cat owned by an eligible owner unless such
 97 dog or cat: (1) Previously received such vaccinations, or (2) is
 98 determined to be medically unfit to receive such vaccinations, as
 99 determined by a veterinarian.

100 ~~[(c)]~~ (d) The participating veterinarian shall be paid by the
 101 commissioner for sterilization and coincident vaccinations of a dog or
 102 cat owned by an eligible owner upon submission of the voucher issued
 103 pursuant to section 22-380f and signed by such veterinarian.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2013	22-380g
Sec. 2	July 1, 2013	22-380i

Statement of Purpose:

To provide for a greater distribution of animal population control funds to programs that assist persons with low incomes to have the

dog or cat they purchased from a municipal or state pound sterilized and vaccinated.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. URBAN, 43rd Dist.

H.B. 5836