



General Assembly

February Session, 2018

Raised Bill No. 349

LCO No. 1609



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT CONCERNING REGIONAL ANIMAL SHELTERS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 22-331a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2018*):

3 Any two or more contiguous towns each of which has a population
4 of less than twenty-five thousand, and which have or will provide a
5 dog pound facility within their region, by action of their legislative
6 bodies, may agree to be served by a regional animal control officer.
7 Upon certification of such agreement to the commissioner with
8 assurances from the towns so certifying that they will provide and
9 continue to provide adequate facilities and compensation for such
10 officer, the commissioner may, after giving due regard to the regional
11 aspects of the proposed facilities and whether the proposed region
12 would be in the best interests of the towns so certifying, establish such
13 region. Each person so appointed shall have the same powers and
14 duties within the region to which he is assigned as a municipal animal
15 control officer in each town therein. All costs of maintaining and
16 operating such pounds and administering and enforcing the laws

17 relating to dogs within such regions shall be paid in accordance with
18 the provisions of the agreement certified to the commissioner under
19 this section except as provided in section 22-380g, as amended by this
20 act.

21 Sec. 2. Section 22-380g of the general statutes is repealed and the
22 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2018*):

23 (a) The Commissioner of Agriculture shall (1) establish an animal
24 population control program to provide for spaying and neutering
25 services to eligible owners of dogs and cats, (2) establish an account to
26 be known as the "animal population control account" that may contain
27 any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account and any
28 balance remaining in said account at the end of any fiscal year shall be
29 carried forward in said account for the fiscal year next succeeding, (3)
30 create a standard dog licensing form and distribute said form to
31 veterinarians or the operators of pet shops, pet grooming facilities,
32 municipal pounds or dog training facilities who voluntarily agree to
33 make such forms available for the convenience of dog owners, (4)
34 establish a program to assist registered nonprofit rescue groups with
35 the sterilization and vaccination of feral cats, and (5) establish a
36 program to sterilize and vaccinate dogs and cats owned by a low-
37 income person.

38 (b) Not more than ten per cent of the funds deposited in the animal
39 population control account in accordance with subsection (f) of section
40 14-21h, subsection (a) of section 22-338, section 22-380f and section 22-
41 380l shall be used for the sterilization and vaccination of feral cats
42 program in accordance with subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of this
43 section.

44 (c) Not more than twenty per cent of the funds deposited in the
45 animal population control account in accordance with subsection (f) of
46 section 14-21h, subsection (a) of section 22-338, section 22-380f and
47 section 22-380l shall be used for the sterilization and vaccination of
48 dogs and cats owned by a low-income person pursuant to the program

49 established under subdivision (5) of subsection (a) of this section.

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

55 (e) Any revenue collected pursuant to the provisions of sections 22-
56 380f and 22-380l shall be deposited in the animal population control
57 account. All money in the account shall be used by the commissioner
58 exclusively for (1) the implementation and promotion of the animal
59 population control program, (2) the costs associated with the
60 administration of such program, provided not more than two hundred
61 twenty-five thousand dollars may be expended for administrative
62 costs per year, (3) twenty-five per cent of the costs of operating any
63 regional facility, as described in section 22a-331, as amended by this
64 act, and [(3)] (4) reimbursement of persons completing a training
65 program pursuant to subsections (c) and (d) of section 22-328, for the
66 costs of such program, provided moneys in the account may also be
67 used to provide reimbursement to any municipality for the costs of
68 providing temporary care to any animal pursuant to section 22-329a if
69 such temporary care exceeded thirty days in duration and such costs
70 exceeded the amount of any surety bond or cash bond posted pursuant
71 to subsection (f) of section 22-329a, provided the total annual
72 reimbursement to municipalities from said account for such purpose
73 shall not exceed fifty thousand dollars.

74 (f) The commissioner may suspend any or all of the programs at any
75 time that the amount of money available in the account is less than
76 three hundred thousand dollars. The commissioner may reinstate any
77 of the suspended programs when such amount exceeds three hundred
78 thousand dollars.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2018</i>	22-331a
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2018</i>	22-380g

Statement of Purpose:

To provide funding for part of the cost of operating regional animal shelters.

[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.]