

**Proposed Substitute  
Bill No. 349**

LCO No. 2630

**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 Section 22-331a of the general statutes is repealed and the  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] fifty thousand, and which have or will  
5 provide a dog pound facility within their region, by action of their  
6 legislative bodies, may agree to be served by a regional animal control  
7 officer. 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 Section 22-380g of the general statutes is repealed and the  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 constructing or  
63 renovating any regional facility, as described in section 22-331a, as  
64 amended by this act, and [(3)] (4) reimbursement of persons  
65 completing a training program pursuant to subsections (c) and (d) of  
66 section 22-328, for the costs of such program, provided moneys in the  
67 account may also be used to provide reimbursement to any  
68 municipality for the costs of providing temporary care to any animal  
69 pursuant to section 22-329a if such temporary care exceeded thirty  
70 days in duration and such costs exceeded the amount of any surety  
71 bond or cash bond posted pursuant to subsection (f) of section 22-329a,  
72 provided the total annual reimbursement to municipalities from said  
73 account for such purpose 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