



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 118

February Session, 2018

Substitute Senate Bill No. 349

Senate, March 28, 2018

The Committee on Environment reported through SEN. KENNEDY of the 12th Dist. and SEN. MINER of the 30th Dist., Chairpersons of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

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 Section 22-331a of the general statutes is repealed and the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 Section 22-380g of the general statutes is repealed and the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

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 19 \$	FY 20 \$
Department of Agriculture	Animal Population Control - Cost	Potential Significant	Potential Significant

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 19 \$	FY 20 \$
Various Municipalities	Revenue Gain	Potential Significant	Potential Significant

Explanation

The bill expands uses of the Animal Population Control Account (APCA) administered by the Department of Agriculture (DoAg) by allowing reimbursement of up to 25% of construction or renovation costs for regional animal shelters.¹

To the extent construction or renovation costs are submitted for reimbursement in FY 19 and FY 20, the bill would result in significant costs to the APCA, and a commensurate potential significant revenue gain to any municipality submitting for compensation.²

On average, it is estimated that construction costs for a new municipal dog pound are \$800,000 - \$1.0 million. If a new dog pound was built at a cost of \$900,000: (1) the one-time cost to the APCA at a

¹ The APCA is a nonappropriated account.

² The balance in the APCA is currently \$508,909.

reimbursement rate of 25% (as specified in the bill) would be \$225,000, and (2) the one-time revenue gain to the municipality where the dog pound is located would also be \$225,000.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the actual costs of constructing or renovating regional dog pounds.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 349*****AN ACT CONCERNING REGIONAL ANIMAL SHELTERS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill expands the purposes for which the Department of Agriculture commissioner may use the animal population control account by allowing him to use it to reimburse municipalities for 25% of the cost of constructing or renovating a regional animal shelter facility (see BACKGROUND).

The bill also allows more municipalities to open regional animal shelter facilities. Under current law, any two or more contiguous towns, each with a population of less than 25,000, may agree to be served by a regional animal control officer and facility. The bill increases the population threshold of the contiguous towns to those with a population of less than 50,000. By law, the towns must agree to a regional facility by action of their legislative bodies.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2018

BACKGROUND***Animal Population Control Account***

By law, the agriculture commissioner currently uses the animal population control account for the following purposes, to:

1. implement, promote, and administer the animal population control program, which provides spaying, neutering, and vaccination services to eligible dog and cat owners and nonprofit rescue groups;
2. reimburse people completing animal control officer training;
and

3. reimburse municipalities for providing temporary care to an animal that lasts longer than 30 days if the cost exceeds the posted bond amount, up to \$50,000 annually.

As part of the animal population control program, the commissioner must use up to 10% of the account's funds to sterilize and vaccinate feral cats and up to 20% of the account's funds to sterilize and vaccinate dogs and cats owned by people with low incomes.

The account includes money collected from (1) municipal pound adoption fees, (2) municipal dog license surcharges, (3) commemorative license plates, and (4) donations. By law, any money remaining in the account at the end of a fiscal year carries forward to the next fiscal year.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 23 Nay 5 (03/14/2018)