

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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SENATE BILL 684
Finance Committee Substitute Adopted 7/26/07
Third Edition Engrossed 7/28/07
House Committee Substitute Favorable 7/31/07

Short Title: Spay/Neuter Funding.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 13, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR FUNDING FOR THE STATEWIDE SPAY AND
NEUTER PROGRAM FROM THE SALE OF RABIES VACCINATION TAGS
AND TO REQUIRE REPORTING ON THE PROGRAM.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 130A-190 reads as rewritten:

"§ 130A-190. Rabies vaccination tags.

(a) Issuance. – A licensed veterinarian or a certified rabies vaccinator who administers rabies vaccine to a dog or cat shall issue a rabies vaccination tag to the owner of the animal. The rabies vaccination tag shall show the year issued, a vaccination number, the words "North Carolina" or the initials "N.C." and the words "rabies vaccine." Dogs and cats shall wear rabies vaccination tags at all times. However, cats may be exempted from wearing the tags by local ordinance.

(b) Fee. – Rabies vaccination tags, ~~links and rivets,~~ and rivets may be obtained from the Department. The Secretary is authorized to establish by rule a fee for the rabies tags, ~~links and rivets,~~ links, and rivets in accordance with this subsection. ~~Except as otherwise authorized in this section, the fee shall not exceed the actual cost of the rabies tags, links and rivets, plus transportation costs. The Secretary may increase the fee beyond the actual cost plus transportation, by an amount not to exceed five cents (\$.05) per tag, to fund rabies education and prevention programs.~~ The fee for each tag is the sum of the following:

(1) The actual cost of the rabies tag, links, and rivets.

(2) Transportation costs.

(3) Five cents (5¢). This portion of the fee shall be used to fund rabies education and prevention programs.

(4) Twenty cents (20¢). This portion of the fee shall be credited to the Spay/Neuter Account established in G.S. 19A-62 and used to fund

1 statewide spay/neuter programs. This portion of the fee shall not be
2 imposed for tags provided to persons who operate establishments
3 primarily for the purpose of boarding or training hunting dogs or who
4 own and vaccinate 10 or more dogs per year.

5 ~~(e) The Department shall make available a special edition rabies tag to be known~~
6 ~~as the "I-Care" tag. This tag shall be different in shape from the standard tag and shall~~
7 ~~carry the inscription "I-Care" in addition to the information required by subsection (a) of~~
8 ~~this section. The Secretary is authorized to establish a fee for the "I-Care" rabies tag~~
9 ~~equal to the amount set forth in subsection (b) of this section plus an additional fifty~~
10 ~~cents (\$.50). The additional fifty cents (\$.50) shall be credited to the Spay/Neuter~~
11 ~~Account established in G.S. 19A-62."~~

12 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 19A-62 reads as rewritten:

13 **"§ 19A-62. Spay/Neuter Account established.**

14 (a) Creation. – The Spay/Neuter Account is established as a nonreverting special
15 revenue account in the Department of Health and Human Services. The Account
16 consists of the following:

17 (1) ~~Fifty cents (50¢) of the fee imposed by G.S. 130A-190(c) on the costs~~
18 ~~of obtaining rabies vaccination tags. The portion of the fee imposed~~
19 ~~under G.S. 130A-190(b)(4) for obtaining a rabies vaccination tag from~~
20 ~~the Department of Health and Human Services.~~

21 (2) Ten dollars (\$10.00) of the additional fee imposed by G.S. 20-79.7 for
22 an Animal Lovers special license plate.

23 (3) Any other funds available from appropriations by the General
24 Assembly or from contributions and grants from public or private
25 sources.

26 (b) Use. – The revenue in the Account shall be used by the Department of Health
27 and Human Services as follows:

28 (1) If the revenue generated by the portion of the fee imposed under
29 G.S. 130A-190(b)(3) is less than forty-seven thousand five hundred
30 dollars (\$47,500) for the fiscal year, then funds up to the difference
31 between forty-seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$47,500) and the
32 amount of revenue generated may be used from this Account to fund
33 rabies education and prevention programs.

34 (2) Twenty percent (20%) shall be used to develop and implement the
35 statewide education program component of the Spay/Neuter Program
36 established in G.S. 19A-61(a).

37 ~~(2)(3)~~ (3) Up to twenty percent (20%) of the money in the Account may be used
38 to defray the costs of administering the Spay/Neuter Program
39 established in this Article.

40 ~~(3)(4)~~ (4) Funds remaining after deductions for the education program and
41 administrative expenses shall be distributed quarterly to eligible
42 counties and cities seeking reimbursement for reduced-cost
43 spay/neuter surgeries performed during the previous year. A county or
44 city is ineligible to receive funds under this subdivision unless it

1 requires the owner to show proof of rabies vaccination at the time of
2 the procedure or, if none, require vaccination at the time of the
3 procedure."

4 **SECTION 3.** In February of each year, the Department must report to the
5 Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations and the Fiscal Research
6 Division. The report must contain information regarding all revenues and expenditures
7 of the Spay/Neuter Account.

8 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective January 1, 2008.