

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Interim – May-December:
1292 Sadler Way Rm. 323
Fairbanks, AK 99701
907-452-1088



Session – January-April:
State Capitol Rm 500
Juneau, AK 99801
907-465-3004

Representative Will Stapp

District 32: East Fairbanks, Fort Wainwright, Badger

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Sponsor Statement

HB 258 Statewide Spay and Neuter Assistance Program (34-LS1229\I)

House Bill 258 establishes a statewide spay and neuter assistance program and fund to help address animal overpopulation in Alaska in a proactive, cost-effective, and humane way.

Across the state, communities, particularly rural and underserved areas, face ongoing challenges related to uncontrolled dog and cat populations. These challenges affect public safety, animal welfare, municipal budgets, and local shelters, which are often overwhelmed by the costs of animal control and care. HB 258 is intended to reduce these pressures by supporting preventative services rather than relying solely on reactive enforcement.

The bill creates a Statewide Spay and Neuter Assistance Fund to support spay and neuter services through grants or partnerships with veterinarians, nonprofits, and local organizations. The program is designed to be voluntary and flexible, allowing services to be targeted where the need is greatest and where access to veterinary care is limited.

HB 258 also establishes special request companion animal spay and neuter license plates and allows for voluntary Permanent Fund Dividend contributions to support the program. These funding mechanisms are intended to minimize reliance on general funds and allow Alaskans who care about animal welfare to directly support solutions.

By reducing unintended litters, HB 258 aims to:

- Lower long-term animal control and sheltering costs,
- Improve public health and safety,
- Reduce strain on local governments and nonprofits, and
- Promote responsible pet ownership statewide.

This legislation takes a preventative, fiscally responsible approach to an issue that affects communities throughout Alaska. By investing in spay and neuter services, the state can reduce downstream costs while improving outcomes for animals and the people who care for them.