

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 258(RES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Offered:**Referred:****Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES STAPP, Moore, Dibert****A BILL****FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act establishing a statewide spay and neuter assistance fund; establishing the
2 statewide spay and neuter assistance program; relating to companion animal spay and
3 neuter special request registration plates; relating to contributions from permanent
4 fund dividends; and providing for an effective date."

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

6 * **Section 1.** AS 03.55 is amended by adding new sections to read:

7 **Article 3. Statewide Spay and Neuter Assistance Fund and Program.**

8 **Sec. 03.55.200. Statewide spay and neuter assistance fund.** (a) The
9 statewide spay and neuter assistance fund is established as a separate account in the
10 general fund. The fund consists of

11 (1) program receipts from the special request companion animal spay
12 and neuter plates issued under AS 28.10.421(d)(28);

13 (2) donations to the fund;

14 (3) federal or private funding that may be available to the state to

1 support spay and neuter services; and

2 (4) interest earned on money in the fund.

3 (b) The department shall administer the fund in accordance with the
4 provisions of AS 03.55.200 - 03.55.240.

5 (c) The legislature may appropriate money from the fund to the department to
6 implement AS 03.55.200 - 03.55.240 and to pay the costs of administering the fund.

7 (d) Nothing in this section creates a dedicated fund.

8 **Sec. 03.55.210. Statewide spay and neuter assistance program; eligibility.**

9 (a) The statewide spay and neuter assistance program is established in the department.

10 (b) The program shall provide direct reimbursement to a participating
11 veterinarian, veterinary clinic, animal shelter, or nonprofit organization in the state
12 that provides a spay or neuter surgery or presurgical examination or administers
13 required vaccinations without charge or at a reduced rate to a pet belonging to a
14 household in the state with an annual family or household income equal to or less than
15 130 percent of the most recent poverty guidelines for the state set by the United States
16 Department of Health and Human Services.

17 (c) The department shall adopt regulations to carry out the program, including
18 establishing

19 (1) a process for verifying whether a pet owner qualifies as an eligible
20 household under (b) of this section;

21 (2) a fee reimbursement process and standard reimbursement rate
22 schedule of up to 80 percent of the prevailing rates for the services covered by the
23 program.

24 **Sec. 03.55.220. Statewide spay and neuter assistance fund and program**
25 **awareness and education.** The department shall promote public awareness of the
26 fund and the program and educate the public about the dangers of uncontrolled
27 breeding of domestic dogs and cats. The department shall publish a list of providers
28 that participate in the program on the department's Internet website.

29 **Sec. 03.55.230. Annual report.** The department shall submit an annual report
30 to the legislature on or before the first day of each regular session of the legislature
31 that details, for the preceding year, the number and type of services provided under the

1 program and the program revenue and expenditures. The department shall deliver the
2 report to the senate secretary and the chief clerk of the house of representatives and
3 notify the legislature that the report is available.

4 **Sec. 03.55.240. Definitions.** In AS 03.55.200 - 03.55.240,

5 (1) "department" means the Department of Environmental
6 Conservation;

7 (2) "fund" means the statewide spay and neuter assistance fund
8 established under AS 03.55.200;

9 (3) "program" means the statewide spay and neuter assistance program
10 established under AS 03.55.210.

11 * **Sec. 2.** AS 28.10.181 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

12 (pp) Special request companion animal spay and neuter plates. Upon
13 application by the owner of a motor vehicle, the department may design and issue
14 registration plates representing the statewide spay and neuter assistance program
15 established under AS 03.55.210. The department may disapprove the issuance of
16 registration plates under this subsection when the requested plates are a duplication of
17 an existing registration.

18 * **Sec. 3.** AS 28.10.421(d) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

19 (28) special request companion animal spay and neuter plates
20 registered under AS 28.10.181(pp) \$100
21 plus the fee required for that vehicle under (b), (c), (h), or (i) of this section; the fee
22 required by this paragraph shall be collected only on the first issuance of and the
23 replacement of the special request plates; the commissioner shall separately account
24 for the fees received under this paragraph that the department deposits into the general
25 fund; notwithstanding (g) of this section, the annual estimated balance in the account
26 that is in excess of the cost of issuing special request plates may be appropriated by
27 the legislature into the statewide spay and neuter assistance fund established in
28 AS 03.55.200.

29 * **Sec. 4.** AS 37.05.146(c) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

30 (88) statewide spay and neuter assistance fund (AS 03.55.200).

31 * **Sec. 5.** AS 43.23.130(a) is amended to read:

(a) Notwithstanding AS 43.23.200, the Department of Revenue shall prepare the electronic Alaska permanent fund dividend application to allow an applicant who files electronically to direct that money be subtracted from the dividend payment and contributed to the crime victim compensation fund (AS 18.67.162), the peace officer and firefighter survivors' fund, **the statewide spay and neuter assistance fund (AS 03.55.200)**, or one or more of the educational organizations, community foundations, or charitable organizations that appear on the contribution list contained in the application. A contribution to the crime victim compensation fund, the peace officer and firefighter survivors' fund, **the statewide spay and neuter assistance fund**, or [TO] an organization may be \$25, \$50, \$75, \$100, or more, in increments of \$50, up to the total amount of the permanent fund dividend that the applicant is entitled to receive. If the total amount of contributions elected by an applicant exceeds the amount of the permanent fund dividend that the applicant is entitled to receive, contributions shall be deducted from the dividend in the order of priority elected by the applicant on the application until the entire amount of the dividend that the applicant is entitled to receive is allocated for contribution. The electronic dividend application form must include notice that seven percent of the money contributed will be used for administrative costs incurred in implementing this section, and money from the dividend fund will not be used for that purpose.

* **Sec. 6.** AS 43.23.130(b) is amended to read:

(b) The department shall list each educational organization, community foundation, or charitable organization eligible under (c) and (d) of this section, each university campus that applies under (l) of this section, the crime victim compensation fund, [AND] the peace officer and firefighter survivors' fund, **and the statewide spay and neuter assistance fund** on the contribution list. The department shall maintain an electronic database for the contribution list that is accessible to the public and that permits searches by organization or fund name, geographic location, and type. The department shall provide a statement of the contributions made by an individual that is suitable for federal income tax purposes to each individual who elects to contribute under (a) of this section.

* **Sec. 7.** AS 43.23.130(m) is amended to read:

(m) In addition to the application fee in (f) of this section, the department shall withhold a coordination fee from each organization, foundation, or university campus that receives contributions under this section in the immediately preceding dividend year. The coordination fee for an organization, foundation, or university campus that receives contributions under this section shall be seven percent of the amount of contributions reported by the department under (j) of this section for the organization, foundation, or university campus for the immediately preceding dividend year. The coordination fee shall be separately accounted for under AS 37.05.142 and shall be accounted for separately from the application fee collected under (f) of this section. The annual estimated balance in the account maintained under AS 37.05.142 for coordination fees collected under this subsection may be appropriated for costs of administering this section. The department may not withhold a coordination fee for contributions to the crime victim compensation fund, [OR] the peace officer and firefighter survivors' fund, **or the statewide spay and neuter assistance fund.**

* **Sec. 8.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

REPORT TO LEGISLATURE. The Department of Environmental Conservation shall submit the first annual report required by AS 03.55.230, enacted by sec. 1 of this Act, on or before January 18, 2028.

* **Sec. 9.** This Act takes effect January 1, 2027.