

**HOUSE BILL NO. 258**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES STAPP, Moore, Dibert, Costello

Introduced: 1/20/26

Referred: Resources, Finance

**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 municipal control of feral  
3 domestic dogs and cats; relating to companion animal spay and neuter special request  
4 registration plates; relating to contributions from permanent fund dividends; and  
5 providing for an effective date."

6 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

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

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

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

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

1 (2) donations to the fund;

2 (3) federal or private funding that may be available to the state to  
3 support spay and neuter services; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

12 (b) The program shall provide direct reimbursement to a participating  
13 veterinarian, veterinary clinic, animal shelter, or nonprofit organization in the state  
14 that provides a spay or neuter surgery or presurgical examination or administers  
15 required vaccinations

16 (1) without charge or at a reduced rate to a pet belonging to a  
17 household in the state with an annual family or household income equal to or less than  
18 130 percent of the most recent poverty guidelines for the state set by the United States  
19 Department of Health and Human Services; or

20 (2) to a feral domestic dog or cat in accordance with a municipal  
21 ordinance permitting the trapping, spaying or neutering, vaccination, and release of  
22 feral domestic dogs and cats.

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

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

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

30 **Sec. 03.55.220. Statewide spay and neuter assistance fund and program**  
31 **awareness and education.** The department shall promote public awareness of the

1 fund and the program and educate the public about the dangers of uncontrolled  
 2 breeding of domestic dogs and cats. The department shall publish a list of providers  
 3 that participate in the program on the department's Internet website.

4 **Sec. 03.55.230. Annual report.** The department shall submit an annual report  
 5 to the legislature on or before the first day of each regular session of the legislature  
 6 that details, for the preceding year, the number and type of services provided under the  
 7 program and the program revenue and expenditures. The department shall deliver the  
 8 report to the senate secretary and the chief clerk of the house of representatives and  
 9 notify the legislature that the report is available.

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

11 (1) "department" means the Department of Environmental  
 12 Conservation;

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

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

17 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 16.05.255(a) is amended to read:

18 (a) The Board of Game may adopt regulations it considers advisable in  
 19 accordance with AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act) for

20 (1) setting apart game reserve areas, refuges, and sanctuaries in the  
 21 water or on the land of the state over which it has jurisdiction, subject to the approval  
 22 of the legislature;

23 (2) establishing open and closed seasons and areas for the taking of  
 24 game;

25 (3) establishing the means and methods employed in the pursuit,  
 26 capture, taking, and transport of game, including regulations, consistent with resource  
 27 conservation and development goals, establishing means and methods that may be  
 28 employed by persons with physical disabilities;

29 (4) setting quotas, bag limits, harvest levels, and sex, age, and size  
 30 limitations on the taking of game;

31 (5) classifying game as game birds, song birds, big game animals, fur

bearing animals, predators, or other categories;

(6) methods, means, and harvest levels necessary to control predation and competition among game in the state;

(7) watershed and habitat improvement, and management, conservation, protection, use, disposal, propagation, and stocking of game;

(8) prohibiting the live capture, possession, transport, or release of native or exotic game or their eggs, **unless the action is permitted under an ordinance adopted under AS 29.35.052;**

(9) establishing the times and dates during which the issuance of game licenses, permits, and registrations and the transfer of permits and registrations between registration areas and game management units or subunits is allowed;

(10) regulating sport hunting and subsistence hunting as needed for the conservation, development, and utilization of game;

(11) taking game to ensure public safety;

(12) regulating the activities of persons licensed to control nuisance wild birds and nuisance wild small mammals;

(13) promoting hunting and trapping and preserving the heritage of hunting and trapping in the state.

\* **Sec. 3.** AS 28.10.181 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

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

\* **Sec. 4.** AS 28.10.421(d) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

(28) special request companion animal spay and neuter plates registered under AS 28.10.181(pp)..... \$100 plus the fee required for that vehicle under (b), (c), (h), or (i) of this section; the fee required by this paragraph shall be collected only on the first issuance of and the replacement of the special request plates; the commissioner shall separately account

1 for the fees received under this paragraph that the department deposits into the general  
 2 fund; notwithstanding (g) of this section, the annual estimated balance in the account  
 3 that is in excess of the cost of issuing special request plates may be appropriated by  
 4 the legislature into the statewide spay and neuter assistance fund established in  
 5 AS 03.55.200.

6 \* **Sec. 5.** AS 29.35 is amended by adding a new section to read:

7 **Sec. 29.35.052. Feral domestic dog and cat populations.** As a means of  
 8 controlling the feral domestic dog and cat population in a municipality, a municipality  
 9 may adopt an ordinance that allows feral domestic dogs and cats to be captured,  
 10 possessed, and transported for the purpose of spaying or neutering and vaccinating the  
 11 animal before release.

12 \* **Sec. 6.** AS 37.05.146(c) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

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

14 \* **Sec. 7.** AS 43.23.130(a) is amended to read:

15 (a) Notwithstanding AS 43.23.200, the Department of Revenue shall prepare  
 16 the electronic Alaska permanent fund dividend application to allow an applicant who  
 17 files electronically to direct that money be subtracted from the dividend payment and  
 18 contributed to the crime victim compensation fund (AS 18.67.162), the peace officer  
 19 and firefighter survivors' fund, **the statewide spay and neuter assistance fund**  
 20 **(AS 03.55.200)**, or one or more of the educational organizations, community  
 21 foundations, or charitable organizations that appear on the contribution list contained  
 22 in the application. A contribution to the crime victim compensation fund, the peace  
 23 officer and firefighter survivors' fund, **the statewide spay and neuter assistance**  
 24 **fund**, or [TO] an organization may be \$25, \$50, \$75, \$100, or more, in increments of  
 25 \$50, up to the total amount of the permanent fund dividend that the applicant is  
 26 entitled to receive. If the total amount of contributions elected by an applicant exceeds  
 27 the amount of the permanent fund dividend that the applicant is entitled to receive,  
 28 contributions shall be deducted from the dividend in the order of priority elected by  
 29 the applicant on the application until the entire amount of the dividend that the  
 30 applicant is entitled to receive is allocated for contribution. The electronic dividend  
 31 application form must include notice that seven percent of the money contributed will

1 be used for administrative costs incurred in implementing this section, and money  
2 from the dividend fund will not be used for that purpose.

3 \* **Sec. 8.** AS 43.23.130(b) is amended to read:

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

14 \* **Sec. 9.** AS 43.23.130(m) is amended to read:

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

29 \* **Sec. 10.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to  
30 read:

31 REPORT TO LEGISLATURE. The Department of Environmental Conservation shall

- 1 submit the first annual report required by AS 03.55.230, enacted by sec. 1 of this Act, on or
- 2 before January 18, 2028.
- 3 \* **Sec. 11.** This Act takes effect January 1, 2027.