

May 9, 2000

H 1491. SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAM (=S 1184). *TO ESTABLISH A VOLUNTARILY FUNDED STATEWIDE SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAM TO PROVIDE EDUCATION ON THE BENEFITS OF SPAYING AND NEUTERING PETS AND TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO COUNTIES AND CITIES OFFERING LOW-INCOME PERSONS REDUCED-COST SPAY/NEUTER SERVICES FOR DOGS AND CATS.* Creates Art. 5 of GS Ch. 19A to establish indicated program. Establishes spay/neuter program in the Dep't of Health and Human Services with an educational program and a local spay/neuter assistance program. Establishes a nonreverting special revenue account for the program in the Dep't. Directs that fifty cents of special edition rabies vaccination tag fee and \$10 of each Animal Lovers special license plate fee, along with any other appropriations or gifts, be placed in the fund. Directs that 20% of the revenue in the Account be used for the statewide education program and allows up to 20% of the fund to be used for administrative purposes (with the Dep't to use lapsed salaries in the first year of the program to fund a position to administer the program). Remaining funds are to be distributed quarterly to eligible cities and counties seeking reimbursement for reduced cost spay/neuter operations. Establishes criteria for cities and counties to be eligible for reimbursement (must levy animal tax, amount for animals not spayed or neutered must be at least three times regular fees, may exempt breeders from higher tax, and offers reduced cost spaying/neutering for low-income persons). Establishes procedures for local governments to seek reimbursement and sets priorities for fund distribution. Amends GS 130A-190 to establish special edition "I Care" rabies tag with an additional fee of fifty cents. Amends GS 20-81.12(b10) to direct fees for Animal Lovers plates to the Spay/Neuter Account. Amends GS 130A-197 to allow six month quarantine of unvaccinated animal that has been exposed to rabies as an alternative to destruction. Requires city and county animal shelters to make annual report to Dep't of Health and Human Services on the number of animals received, adopted out, returned to owners, and destroyed, along with total operating expenses. Directs Dep't of Health and Human Services to establish pilot animal control program in an enterprise tier one county that does not currently have a program that meets the standards of this act and sets standards for choice and funding of pilot program. Effective January 1, 2001.

Intro. by Hill.

Ref. to Finance

GS 19A, 20, 130A

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