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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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**HOUSE BILL**

**No. 1715** Session of  
1995

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INTRODUCED BY MICHLOVIC, TRELLO, ITKIN, KUKOVICH, DeWEESE,  
BUXTON, SERAFINI, VAN HORNE, JOSEPHS, BAKER, WOGAN, READSHAW,  
ROBINSON, COWELL, KAISER, DeLUCA, ROONEY, STABACK, FAJT,  
M. COHEN, McCALL, WOZNIAK, RICHARDSON, DEMPSEY, NAILOR,  
BOSCOLA, MILLER, SHANER, LaGROTTA, HALUSKA, STEELMAN, WALKO  
AND CHADWICK, JUNE 7, 1995

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS,  
JUNE 7, 1995

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AN ACT

1 Providing for pet sterilization; establishing the Pet Population  
2 Control Fund in the State Treasury; providing for a  
3 Spay/Neuter Companion Animals license plate; establishing the  
4 Pet Population Control Program; providing for financial  
5 incentives for pet sterilization; and providing penalties.

6 The General Assembly finds and declares that the purposes of  
7 this act are to:

8 (1) Reduce the population of unwanted and stray dogs and  
9 cats by encouraging the owners of these pets to have them  
10 permanently sexually sterilized, thereby reducing potential  
11 threats to public health and safety posed by the growing  
12 population.

13 (2) Provide financial assistance for pet sterilization.

14 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
15 hereby enacts as follows:

16 Section 1. Short title.

17 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Pet

1 Population Control Act.

2 Section 2. Definitions.

3 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
4 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
5 context clearly indicates otherwise:

6 "Department." The Treasury Department of the Commonwealth.

7 "Fund." The Pet Population Control Fund.

8 "Pet." A dog or cat.

9 "Veterinary practice." The practice of veterinary medicine  
10 by a person licensed under the act of December 27, 1974  
11 (P.L.995, No.326), known as the Veterinary Medicine Practice  
12 Act.

13 Section 3. Pet Population Control Fund.

14 (a) Establishment.--There is hereby established a special  
15 fund in the State Treasury to be known as the Pet Population  
16 Control Fund, to which shall be credited all funds collected  
17 under this act from the Spay/Neuter Companion Animals license  
18 plate sales.

19 (b) Spay/Neuter Companion Animals license plate.--Upon  
20 application to the Department of Transportation of any person,  
21 accompanied by a fee of \$35 which shall be in addition to the  
22 annual registration fee, the Department of Transportation shall  
23 issue a Spay/Neuter Companion Animals license plate for a  
24 passenger car or other vehicle with a registered gross weight of  
25 not more than 9,000 pounds. The Pet Population Control Fund  
26 shall receive \$15 of each additional fee for this plate. An  
27 additional \$10 shall be added to the annual registration fee  
28 each year after the initial plate has been issued. The Pet  
29 Population Control Fund shall receive this additional \$10.

30 (c) Interest.--Any interest earned by moneys in the fund

1 shall accrue to the fund.

2 (d) Requisitions.--The department shall requisition from the  
3 fund all available amounts necessary to provide a reimbursement  
4 program for the sterilization of pets in this Commonwealth.

5 (e) Expenses.--As much as may be necessary of the moneys in  
6 the fund may be used to pay the expenses of the department in  
7 administering its duties under this act.

8 Section 4. Pet Population Control Program.

9 (a) Establishment.--The department shall establish and  
10 implement the Pet Population Control Program which shall provide  
11 a reimbursement program for pet owners.

12 (b) Rules and regulations.--The department may promulgate  
13 rules and regulations to carry out the purposes of the act and  
14 cause them to be displayed in a conspicuous location in all  
15 veterinary practices, pet stores, public and private animal  
16 shelters and kennels.

17 (c) Advertisement.--The Treasury Department and the  
18 Department of Transportation shall advertise the reimbursement  
19 program in a manner most likely to reach all pet owners. An  
20 enclosure announcing the Spay/Neuter Companion Animals license  
21 plate shall be included with the initial and subsequent annual  
22 registration fee notices.

23 Section 5. Reimbursement of pet owners.

24 (a) Amount.--Provided sufficient moneys exist in the Pet  
25 Population Control Fund, reimbursements shall be made to pet  
26 owners for up to 50% of the veterinarian's fee to spay or neuter  
27 a pet in an amount determined by the department, not to exceed  
28 the following amounts:

29 (1) For cat neuters, \$20.

30 (2) For cat spays, \$35.

1 (3) For dog neuters, \$40.

2 (4) For dog spays, \$55.

3 (b) Procedure.--Any person submitting a pet for sexual  
4 sterilization who wishes to receive reimbursement under this act  
5 shall:

6 (1) Be a resident of this Commonwealth.

7 (2) Certify in writing that he is the owner of the pet  
8 or authorized by the owner to present the pet for the  
9 procedure.

10 (3) Pay to the veterinary practice the fee for the  
11 sterilization procedure.

12 (4) Submit an application for reimbursement to the  
13 department.

14 (c) Application form.--The application form for  
15 reimbursement shall include, but not be limited to, the  
16 following:

17 (1) The name and address of the pet owner.

18 (2) The name and address of the veterinarian who  
19 performed the sterilization procedure.

20 (3) A description of the pet as to species, breed and  
21 sex.

22 (4) A brief description of the procedure performed.

23 (5) An affidavit by the veterinary practice stating that  
24 the sterilization has been completed, the amount charged and  
25 the name of the person who paid for the procedure.

26 (6) A copy of the receipt by the pet owner of the amount  
27 paid for the procedure.

28 (7) The name of any other organization providing  
29 financial assistance, in whole or in part, for the cost of  
30 the sterilization procedure and the amount provided.

1 (d) Application for reimbursement.--Application for the  
2 refund must be made no later than six months from the date of  
3 the sterilization procedure.

4 Section 6. Penalty.

5 (a) Offenses defined.--A person commits a misdemeanor of the  
6 second degree if he knowingly:

7 (1) Furnishes the department with false information  
8 concerning the actual amount paid for the sterilization  
9 procedure by the pet owner or submits a fraudulent  
10 application for reimbursement under this act.

11 (2) Furnishes any veterinary practice with inaccurate  
12 information concerning the ownership of a pet submitted for a  
13 pet sterilization procedure.

14 (b) Violation of Veterinary Medicine Practice Act.--  
15 Providing false information under this act by a veterinarian  
16 shall be a violation of the act of December 27, 1974 (P.L.995,  
17 No.326), known as the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act, and  
18 shall render the veterinarian ineligible for further  
19 participation in the reimbursement program.

20 (c) Reports by department.--The department shall report all  
21 violations of this act to:

22 (1) Appropriate law enforcement authorities.

23 (2) The State Board of Veterinary Medicine.

24 Section 7. Effective date.

25 This act shall take effect in 90 days.