

SENATE BILL NO. 131

BY SENATOR MORRELL

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 47:463.60(B), (C), (D)(introductory paragraph), and (E), and to
3 repeal R.S. 47:463.60(H), relative to special prestige license plates; to provide with
4 respect to the "Animal Friendly" prestige license plate; to provide for a royalty fee;
5 to abolish the Pet Overpopulation Fund; to provide for the transfer of any remaining
6 monies in the Pet Overpopulation Fund; to provide for an effective date; and to
7 provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 47:463.60(B), (C), (D)(introductory paragraph), and (E) are hereby
10 amended and reenacted to read as follows:

11 §463.60. Special prestige license plates; "Animal Friendly" prestige license plate;
12 animal population control; Pet Overpopulation Fund

13 * * *

14 B. The ~~charge~~ **annual fee** for this prestige license plate shall be **a royalty fee**
15 **of** twenty-five dollars to be distributed as provided in this Section and a handling fee
16 of three dollars and fifty cents to be retained by the department to offset a portion of
17 administrative costs. These charges shall be in addition to the standard motor vehicle
18 license tax imposed by Article VII, Section 5 of the Constitution of Louisiana.

19 C. The department shall collect the ~~monies received from the sale of this~~
20 **royalty fee for the** prestige license plate and ~~shall forward twenty-five dollars~~
21 ~~immediately upon receipt to the state treasury. After compliance with the~~
22 ~~requirements of Article VII, Section 9(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana relative~~
23 ~~to the Bond Security and Redemption Fund, the monies shall be deposited in the Pet~~
24 ~~Overpopulation Fund, which is hereby created within the state treasury, and shall be~~
25 ~~used solely to provide reduced-cost sterilizations of adult animals as defined in R.S.~~
26 ~~3:2471(2) to indigent pet owners. All unexpended and unencumbered monies~~
27 ~~remaining in the fund at the close of each fiscal year shall remain in the fund. Monies~~

1 in the fund shall be invested by the state treasurer in the same manner as monies in
 2 the state general fund. All interest earned from the investment of monies in the fund
 3 shall be credited to this fund after compliance with Article VII, Section 9(B) of the
 4 Constitution of Louisiana **each quarter shall distribute the royalty fee to the Pet**
 5 **Overpopulation Advisory Council.**

6 D. A Pet Overpopulation Advisory Council is hereby established within the
 7 office of the governor to establish guidelines for the expenditure of funds ~~credited~~
 8 ~~to the Pet Overpopulation Fund~~ and to review and make recommendations on grant
 9 applications submitted in compliance with Subsection F of this Section. Members
 10 of the council shall serve on a voluntary basis and shall not receive any
 11 compensation or reimbursement of expenses. The council shall meet at least twice
 12 annually, and it shall consist of the following members:

13 * * *

14 **E.(1) The Pet Overpopulation Advisory Council shall distribute the**
 15 **monies to qualified entities as provided in this Section. The Pet Overpopulation**
 16 **Advisory Council may reserve or expend up to five percent of the money**
 17 **received pursuant to this Section for the promotion and marketing of the**
 18 **prestige license plate and for administrative costs relative to the distribution of**
 19 **the monies.**

20 **(2)** Any indigent pet owner on public assistance, including but not limited to
 21 the Food Stamp Program, the Supplemental Security Income Program, the
 22 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program, the Family Independence
 23 Temporary Assistance Program, or any other similar public assistance program
 24 named by the Pet Overpopulation Advisory Council, shall qualify for low-cost
 25 services.

26 * * *

27 Section 2. R.S. 47:463.60(H) is hereby repealed.

28 Section 3. The Pet Overpopulation Fund in the state treasury shall be abolished as
 29 of the effective date of this Act and the state treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to
 30 immediately transfer any monies remaining in the Pet Overpopulation Fund to the Escrow

1 Fund. Such monies shall be appropriated or otherwise distributed to the Pet Overpopulation
2 Advisory Council as provided in Section 1 of this Act.

3 Section 4. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
4 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
5 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
6 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
7 effective on the day following such approval.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____