

2011 -- S 0143

LC00253

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

A N A C T

RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- RHODE ISLAND SPAY AND
NEUTER FUND

Introduced By: Senators P Fogarty, Perry, and Tassoni

Date Introduced: February 03, 2011

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 4-9 of the General Laws entitled "Biological Products" is hereby
2 amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **4-9-16.1. Rhode Island spay and neuter fund.** -- (a) There is hereby established a
4 separate fund within the general fund to be called the Rhode Island Spay and Neuter Fund to
5 assist residents of the state in paying all or part of any costs associated with reducing the numbers
6 of homeless animals through spaying and neutering. Said fund shall be administered by the
7 general treasurer in accordance with the same laws and fiscal procedures as the general funds of
8 the state. The fund shall consist of sums collected as a result of the taxpayer check-off as
9 provided for in section 44-30-2.11. The general treasurer is authorized to accept any grant, devise,
10 bequest, donation, gift, or assignment of money, bonds, or other valuable securities for deposit in
11 and credit of the Rhode Island Spay and Neuter Fund. The fund shall be expended only for the
12 purposes stated above at the direction of the director of the department of environmental
13 management and any unexpended balances shall be redeposited in the fund for future use
14 consistent with this section.

15 (b) There is hereby established an advisory committee to assist the director in
16 establishing procedures for disbursements from the Rhode Island Spay and Neuter Fund.
17 Members of the advisory committee shall receive no compensation or reimbursement for
18 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. The advisory committee shall consist of the

1 following members appointed by the governor:

2 (1) One member from a humane society, animal rescue or sheltering organization;

3 (2) One representative from the an association organized in Rhode Island for animal
4 control officers;

5 (3) One representative from the state veterinary medical association;

6 (4) One representative from the department of environmental management;

7 (5) One member of the general public with an interest in reducing the number of
8 homeless animals.

9 All members of the advisory committee shall be residents of the state. The board
10 members shall serve three (3) year terms; except that three (3) of the members appointed initially
11 shall serve a term of two (2) years. All members shall have an active interest in reducing the
12 number of homeless pets and educating the community regarding the benefits of pet population
13 control in the state.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 44-30.2 of the General Laws entitled "Reciprocity Agreements -
15 Setoff of Refund of Personal Income Tax" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following
16 section:

17 **44-30.2-11. Refund deduction for contribution to the Rhode Island spay and neuter**
18 **fund. -- (a) There shall be provided as a deduction from any refund from the Rhode Island**
19 **personal income tax otherwise due to a taxpayer for a taxable year a contribution to the Rhode**
20 **Island Spay and Neuter Fund established in section 49-16.1. The provision for the contribution**
21 **shall appear on the state personal income tax return as follows:**

22 Rhode Island Spay and Neuter Fund. Check if you wish to contribute [] \$1, [] \$5, []
23 \$10, or [] \$ (write in amount of your tax REFUND for this program).

24 (b) The tax administrator shall deposit all contributions made to the Rhode Island Spay
25 and Neuter Fund as general revenues.

26 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- RHODE ISLAND SPAY AND
NEUTER FUND

1 This act would establish the Rhode Island Spay and Neuter Fund to assist residents of the
2 state in paying all or part of any costs associated with reducing the numbers of homeless animals
3 through spaying and neutering.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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