

1 H.383

2 Introduced by Representatives Savage of Swanton, Brennan of Colchester,

3 Gamache of Swanton, and Toof of St. Albans Town

4 Referred to Committee on

5 Date:

6 Subject: Motor vehicles; license plates; registration plates

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create a new
8 “pet” motor vehicle registration plate, with most of the proceeds from the new
9 motor vehicle registration plate to be allocated to a special fund and disbursed
10 as grants to animal shelters and rescue organizations.

11 An act relating to the creation of the pet vehicle registration plate

12 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

13 Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 304d is added to read:

14 § 304d. PET REGISTRATION PLATES

15 (a) The Commissioner shall, upon application, issue pet registration plates
16 for use only on vehicles registered at the pleasure car rate, on trucks registered
17 for less than 26,001 pounds, and on motor vehicles registered to State agencies
18 under section 376 of this title, but excluding vehicles registered under the
19 International Registration Plan. Plates so acquired shall be mounted on the
20 front and rear of the vehicle. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall

1 utilize the graphic design recommended by the Vermont Humane Federation
2 for the pet registration plate to enhance public awareness of the State's interest
3 in supporting the work of the State's animal shelters and rescue organizations.
4 Applicants shall apply on forms prescribed by the Commissioner and shall pay
5 an initial fee of \$20.00 in addition to the annual fee for registration. In
6 following years, in addition to the annual registration fee, the holder of a pet
7 registration plate shall pay a renewal fee of \$20.00. The Commissioner may
8 adopt rules under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 to implement the provisions of this
9 subsection.

10 (b) Initial fees collected under subsection (a) of this section shall be
11 allocated as follows:

12 (1) 25 percent to the Transportation Fund; and
13 (2) 75 percent to an Animal Shelter Account within the special fund
14 created under 20 V.S.A. § 3914, with monies in the Account to be used by the
15 Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets to provide grants to support the
16 work of animal shelters and rescue organizations, as defined by 20 V.S.A.
17 § 3901, in Vermont.

18 (c) Renewal fees collected under subsection (a) of this section shall be
19 allocated as follows:

20 (1) 15 percent to the Transportation Fund; and

1 (2) 85 percent to the Animal Shelter Account as described in subdivision
2 (b)(2) of this section.

3 (d) The Department of Motor Vehicles shall be charged by the Department
4 of Corrections for the production of pet registration plates.

5 Sec. 2. 20 V.S.A. § 3914 is amended to read:

6 § 3914. SPECIAL FUNDS

7 (a) Fees collected under this subchapter, or otherwise designated, shall be
8 credited to a special fund and shall be available to the Agency of Agriculture,
9 Food and Markets to offset the cost of providing the services. This fund shall
10 be known as the Animal Welfare Fund.

11 (b) Within the Animal Welfare Fund there shall be an Animal Shelter
12 Account to be administered by the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets
13 to provide grants to support the work of animal shelters and rescue
14 organizations, as defined by section 3901 of this title, in Vermont. Revenue
15 for the Animal Shelter Account shall be derived from:

16 (1) fees from the purchase of specialty pet registration plates pursuant to
17 23 V.S.A. § 304d; and

18 (2) other revenues dedicated for deposit into the Animal Shelter
19 Account by the General Assembly.

1 Sec. 3. 20 V.S.A. § 3916 is added to read:

2 § 3916. ANIMAL SHELTER AND RESCUE ORGANIZATION GRANT
3 PROGRAM

4 The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall establish and
5 implement an animal shelter and rescue organization grant program that
6 improves the availability and quality of animal shelters and rescue
7 organizations within the State of Vermont. Eligible applicants shall include
8 animal shelters and rescue organizations, as defined by section 3901 of this
9 title, in Vermont and funds for the grants shall come from the Animal Shelter
10 Account.

11 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

12 This act shall take effect on passage, and the Commissioner of Motor
13 Vehicles shall begin issuing pet motor vehicle registration plates pursuant to
14 this act not later than January 1, 2020.