

39:3-27.55

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST
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(Animal welfare--license plates)

NJSA: 39:3-27.55

LAWS OF: 1993 **CHAPTER:** 184

BILL NO: A2263

SPONSOR(S) Kavanaugh and others

DATE INTRODUCED: February 8, 1993

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Environment
SENATE: Budget

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes Amendments during passage
Second reprint enacted denoted by superscript numbers

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** May 20, 1993
SENATE: June 21, 1993

DATE OF APPROVAL: July 10, 1993

FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

SPONSOR STATEMENT: Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** Yes (2)
SENATE: Yes

FISCAL NOTE: Yes

VETO MESSAGE: No

MESSAGE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

See newspaper clippings--attached.
KBG:pp

[SECOND REPRINT]
ASSEMBLY, No. 2263

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 8, 1993

By Assemblymen KAVANAUGH, PENN, Bagger, Kronick
and Martin

1 AN ACT establishing "Animal Welfare" license plates,
2 supplementing chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes
3 and amending P.L.1983, c.172.
4

5 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
6 *State of New Jersey:*

7 1. a. (New section) Upon proper application, the Director of
8 the Division of Motor Vehicles may issue animal welfare license
9 plates for a motor vehicle owned or leased and registered in the
10 State. In addition to the registration number and other
11 ¹[makings] markings¹ or identification otherwise prescribed by
12 law, an animal welfare license plate shall display words or a
13 slogan and an emblem indicating support for, or interest in,
14 animal welfare. The words or slogan and emblem shall be
15 selected by the ²[Commissioner of Health, in consultation with
16 advocacy groups having an interest in animal welfare and animal
17 population control, and approved by the]² director. Issuance of
18 animal welfare license plates in accordance with this subsection
19 shall be subject to the limitation of section 3 of P.L.1959, c.56
20 (C.39:3-33.5) and other applicable requirements of chapter 3 of
21 Title 39 of the Revised Statutes, except as hereinafter
22 specifically provided.

23 b. Application for issuance of an animal welfare license plate
24 shall be made to the director on forms and in a manner as may be
25 prescribed by the director. In order to be deemed complete, an
26 application shall be accompanied by a fee of \$50, payable to the
27 Division of Motor Vehicles, which shall be in addition to the fee
28 otherwise prescribed by law for the registration of motor
29 vehicles. The annual renewal fee for the registration certificate
30 of a motor vehicle for which an animal welfare license plate has
31 been issued shall include, in each year subsequent to the year of
32 issuance, an animal welfare license plate fee in the amount of
33 \$10, which shall be in addition to the fee for the renewal of the
34 registration certificate.

35 2. (New section) Moneys ¹from the application and renewal
36 fees¹ collected by the Division of Motor Vehicles for animal
37 welfare license plates shall be deposited in the Animal Population
38 Control Fund established in the Department of Health pursuant to
39 P.L.1983, c.172 (C.4:19A-1 et ¹[seq.] al.¹), and used for the
40 purposes of that act, except that an amount not to exceed
41 \$100,000 of the fees first collected from the issuance of these
42 plates shall be allocated to the Division of Motor Vehicles

EXPLANATION--Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus, in the
above bill] is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript: Amendments has been adopted as follows:

Assembly AEN Committee amendments adopted March 22, 1993

Senate SBA Committee amendments adopted June 14, 1993

1 to defray the administrative costs necessary to implement the
2 provisions of this act.

3 3. (New section) The director shall notify eligible motorists of
4 the opportunity to obtain animal welfare license plates by
5 including a notice with all motor vehicle registration renewals,
6 and by posting appropriate posters or signs ¹[which shall be
7 provided by the Department of Health]¹ in all division facilities
8 and offices. The notices, posters and signs shall be designed by
9 the Commissioner of Health, in consultation with advocacy
10 groups having an interest in animal welfare and ¹animal¹
11 population control, subject to the approval of the director. ¹The
12 Department of Health shall supply the division with the notices,
13 posters, and signs to be circulated or posted by the division.¹

14 4. (New section) The Commissioner of Health and the director
15 shall enter into an interagency memorandum of agreement
16 setting forth the procedures to be followed by the Department of
17 Health and the Division of Motor Vehicles in carrying out their
18 respective responsibilities under this act.

19 5. Section 6 of P.L.1983, c.172 (C.4:19A-5) is amended to read
20 as follows:

21 6. a. The commissioner may solicit and accept funds from any
22 public or private source to help carry out the provisions of ¹[this
23 act] P.L.1983, c.172 (C.4:19A-1 et al.)¹ .

24 b. All fees collected pursuant to ¹[sections 2 and 5 of]¹ [this
25 amendatory and supplementary act] ¹section 1 of¹ P.L.1983,
26 c.172 ¹(C.4:19-15.3b) and sections 3 and 4 of P.L.1983, c.172
27 (C.43:19A-2 and C.4:19A-3), all moneys from the application and
28 renewal fees collected for animal welfare license plates issued
29 pursuant to P.L. , c. (C.) (now pending before the
30 Legislature as this bill)¹ , and all moneys received pursuant to
31 subsection a. of this section, shall be placed in a special fund to
32 be known as the "Animal Population Control Fund," which shall
33 be separate from the General State Fund. All moneys in the
34 "Animal Population Control Fund" shall be used by the
35 commissioner exclusively for the implementation and promotion
36 of the program and for the costs associated with the
37 administration of ¹[this act] P.L.1983, c.172 (C.4:19A-1 et al.)¹ ,
38 except as provided in subsection c. of this section.

39 c. Moneys deposited into the fund generated by ¹the collection
40 of application and renewal¹ fees for animal welfare license plates
41 issued pursuant to P.L. , c. ²(C.)² (now pending before
42 the Legislature as this bill) ¹[may] shall¹ be utilized by the
43 commissioner to reimburse the Division of Motor Vehicles for all
44 costs incurred by the division, as certified by the director, of
45 producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the availability of
46 animal welfare license plates.

47 ²d. The director shall annually certify to the commissioner the
48 average cost per license plate incurred in the immediately
49 preceding year by the division in producing, issuing, renewing, and
50 publicizing the availability of animal welfare license plates. The
51 annual certification of the average cost per license plate shall be
52 approved by the Joint Budget Oversight Committee, or its
53 successor.

54 e. In the event that the average cost per license plate as

1 certified by the director and approved by the Joint Budget
2 Oversight Committee, or its successor, is greater than the \$50
3 application fee established in subsection b. of section 1 of P.L.
4 , c. (C.) (now pending before the Legislature as this bill) in
5 two consecutive fiscal years, the director may discontinue the
6 issuance of animal welfare license plates.²

7 (cf: P.L.1983, c.172, s.6)

8 6. This act shall take effect on the 180th day after enactment.

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13 Establishes animal welfare license plate; dedicates fees to animal
14 population control fund.

1 3. (New section) The director shall notify eligible motorists of
2 the opportunity to obtain animal welfare license plates by
3 including a notice with all motor vehicle registration renewals,
4 and by posting appropriate posters or signs which shall be
5 provided by the Department of Health in all division facilities and
6 offices. The notices, posters and signs shall be designed by the
7 Commissioner of Health, in consultation with advocacy groups
8 having an interest in animal welfare and population control,
9 subject to the approval of the director.

10 4. (New section) The Commissioner of Health and the director
11 shall enter into an interagency memorandum of agreement
12 setting forth the procedures to be followed by the Department of
13 Health and the Division of Motor Vehicles in carrying out their
14 respective responsibilities under this act.

15 5. Section 6 of P.L.1983, c.172 (C.4:19A-5) is amended to read
16 as follows:

17 6. a. The commissioner may solicit and accept funds from any
18 public or private source to help carry out the provisions of this
19 act.

20 b. All fees collected pursuant to sections 2 and 5 of [this
21 amendatory and supplementary act] P.L.1983, c.172, and all
22 moneys received pursuant to subsection a. of this section, shall be
23 placed in a special fund to be known as the "Animal Population
24 Control Fund," which shall be separate from the General State
25 Fund. All moneys in the "Animal Population Control Fund" shall
26 be used by the commissioner exclusively for the implementation
27 and promotion of the program and for the costs associated with
28 the administration of this act, except as provided in subsection c.
29 of this section.

30 c. Moneys deposited into the fund generated by fees for animal
31 welfare license plates issued pursuant to P.L. , c. (now
32 pending before the Legislature as this bill) may be utilized by the
33 commissioner to reimburse the Division of Motor Vehicles for all
34 costs incurred by the division, as certified by the director, of
35 producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the availability of
36 animal welfare license plates.

37 (cf: P.L.1983, c.172, s.6)

38 6. This act shall take effect on the 180th day after enactment.

41 STATEMENT

42
43 This bill establishes a special license plate for animal welfare,
44 which is to be designed by the Commissioner of Health, in
45 consultation with groups having an interest in animal welfare and
46 animal population control. Application for the plates would be
47 made to the Division of Motor Vehicles, and the fee would be
48 \$50, to be paid in addition to the applicable registration fee.
49 There would be an annual renewal fee of \$10. in addition to other
50 registration renewal fees.

51 The fee collected under the bill would be deposited into the
52 "Animal Population Control Fund," established in the Department
53 of Health, except that an amount not to exceed \$100,000 of the
54 fees first collected under the bill would go to defray the

1 administrative expenses of the Division of Motor Vehicles in
2 implementing the bill. In addition, the Commissioner of Health is
3 authorized by the bill to pay administrative costs of producing,
4 issuing, renewing and publicizing the animal welfare license
5 plates from the funds deposited in the "Animal Population
6 Control Fund."

7 The animal population control program, established in 1983,
8 was the first of its kind in the nation to provide for the low-cost
9 spaying and neutering of dogs and cats belonging to persons
10 participating in statutory public assistance programs. Expanded
11 to include other participants over the years, the program has
12 been hailed as the single most important program in New Jersey
13 in reducing the proliferation of unwanted dogs and cats. The
14 availability of a special license plate will enable New Jersey car
15 owners to provide financial support to this worthwhile program.

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20 Establishes animal welfare license plate; dedicates fees to animal
21 population control fund.

ASSEMBLY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2263

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 22, 1993

The Assembly Environment Committee favorably reports Assembly Bill No. 2263 with Assembly committee amendments.

This bill establishes a special license plate for animal welfare, which is to be designed by the Commissioner of Health, in consultation with groups having an interest in animal welfare and animal population control. Application for the plates would be made to the Division of Motor Vehicles, and the fee would be \$50, to be paid in addition to the applicable registration fee. There would be an annual renewal fee of \$10, in addition to other registration renewal fees.

The fee collected under the bill would be deposited into the "Animal Population Control Fund," established in the Department of Health, except that an amount not to exceed \$100,000 of the fees first collected under the bill would go to defray the administrative expenses of the Division of Motor Vehicles in implementing the bill. In addition, the Commissioner of Health is authorized by the bill to pay administrative costs of producing, issuing, renewing and publicizing the animal welfare license plates from the funds deposited in the "Animal Population Control Fund."

The animal population control program, established in 1983, provides for the low-cost spaying and neutering of dogs and cats belonging to persons participating in statutory public assistance programs. It has been expanded over the years to include certain other participants. The purpose of the program is to help reduce the proliferation of unwanted dogs and cats.

The committee amended the bill to (1) clarify that the Department of Health would be required to supply the notices, posters, and signs to be circulated or posted by the Division of Motor Vehicles for the purpose of advertising the availability of the animal welfare license plates, and (2) require that the Division of Motor Vehicles be reimbursed for costs incurred in connection with the animal welfare license plates. The committee also made technical and other clarifying amendments to the bill.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[FIRST REPRINT]

ASSEMBLY, No. 2263

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 6, 1993

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2263 (1R).

Assembly Bill No. 2263 (1R) establishes a special license plate for animal welfare, to be designed by the Commissioner of Health, in consultation with groups having an interest in animal welfare and animal population control. Application for the plates would be made to the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and the fee would be \$50, to be paid in addition to the applicable registration fee. There would be an annual renewal fee of \$10, in addition to other registration renewal fees.

The fee collected under the bill would be deposited into the "Animal Population Control Fund," established in the department, except that an amount not to exceed \$100,000 of the fees first collected under the bill would go to defray the administrative expenses of the DMV. In addition, the Commissioner of Health is authorized by the bill to pay administrative costs of producing, issuing, renewing and publicizing the animal welfare license plates from the funds deposited in the "Animal Population Control Fund."

The animal population control program, established in 1983, provides for the low-cost spaying and neutering of dogs and cats belonging to persons participating in statutory public assistance programs. It has been expanded over the years to include certain other participants. The purpose of the program is to help reduce the proliferation of unwanted dogs and cats.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal note prepared on this bill. However, on a similar bill, the Office of Legislative Services estimated first year revenues of approximately \$2,250,000, second year - \$2,700,000, and in the third year - \$3,150,000. This is based on 45,000 motorists applying for the plates. After administrative costs for the DMV, the net revenues were estimated at \$1,730,000 - the first year, \$2,322,000 - the second year, and \$2,770,000 - the third year. Should additional motorists apply, the revenues would increase proportionately.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[FIRST REPRINT]

ASSEMBLY, No. 2263

with Senate committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 14, 1993

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2263 (1R), with committee amendments.

Assembly Bill No. 2263 (1R), as amended, establishes an animal welfare special license plate to be designed by Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles. Application for the plate would be made to the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and the fee would be \$50, to be paid in addition to the applicable registration fee. There would be an annual renewal fee of \$10, in addition to other registration renewal fees.

The fee collected under the bill would be deposited into the "Animal Population Control Fund," established in the Department of Health, except that an amount not to exceed \$100,000 of the fees first collected under the bill would go to defray the administrative expenses of the DMV. In addition, the Commissioner of Health is authorized by the bill to pay DMV's administrative costs for producing, issuing, renewing and publicizing the animal welfare license plate from the funds deposited in the "Animal Population Control Fund."

The animal population control program, established in 1983, provides for the low-cost spaying and neutering of dogs and cats belonging to persons participating in statutory public assistance programs. It has been expanded over the years to include certain other participants. The purpose of the program is to help reduce the proliferation of unwanted dogs and cats.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amended the bill to require the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles to select the design of the animal welfare license plate and to certify annually to the Commissioner of Health the cost for producing, issuing, renewing and publicizing the plate. This annual certification is to be approved by the Joint Budget Oversight Committee.

In addition, the amendment specifies that if the average cost per license plate exceeds \$50 for two consecutive years, the director may discontinue the issuance of the plates.

FISCAL IMPACT

There was no fiscal note prepared on this bill as of the date of this statement. However, on a similar bill, the Office of Legislative Services estimated revenues of approximately \$2,250,000 for the first year, \$2,700,000 for the second year, and \$3,150,000 for the third year. This estimate is based on an assumption that 45,000 motorists would apply for the plates annually and that all plate holders would renew their plates. After

administrative costs for the DMV, the net revenues are estimated to be approximately \$1,730,000 for the first year, \$2,322,000 for the second year, and \$2,770,000 for the third year. If additional or fewer motorists apply, the revenues would increase or decrease proportionately.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE TO

[FIRST REPRINT]
ASSEMBLY, No. 2263

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: July 19, 1993

Assembly Bill No. 2263 [1R] of 1993 establishes a special animal welfare license plate to be designed by the Commissioner of Health, in consultation with groups having an interest in animal welfare and animal population control. Application for the plates would be made to the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) in the Department of Law and Public Safety, and the fee would be \$50, to be paid in addition to the applicable registration fee. There would be an annual renewal fee of \$10 in addition to other registration renewal fees.

The fee collected under the bill would be deposited into the "Animal Population Control Fund," established in the Department of Health, except that an amount not to exceed \$100,000 of the fees first collected under the bill would go to defray DMV's administrative expenses in implementing the bill. In addition, the Commissioner of Health would be authorized to pay administrative costs of producing, issuing, renewing and publicizing the animal welfare license plates from the funds deposited in the "Animal Population Control Fund."

Furthermore, the Department of Health would be required to supply the notices, posters, and signs to be circulated or posted by DMV for the purpose of advertising the availability of the animal welfare license plates.

For similar legislation to establish shore protection license plates, Assembly Bill No. 1455 (2R) of 1992, DMV estimates the cost of implementing that bill at \$520,155 in the first year after enactment. Of this amount, \$146,077 would be for one-time computer programming and die costs. According to DMV, the remaining \$374,078 represents funding for the following operational costs: \$59,913 for salaries for three personnel, \$17,165 for fringe benefits, and \$297,000 for materials and supplies. Assuming a 5 percent annual increase for salaries and fringe benefits, DMV estimates second and third year costs at \$377,932 and \$381,979, respectively.

DMV estimates revenues from licensing fees, which are identical to those provided in this bill, at \$2,250,000, \$2,700,000 and \$3,150,000 in the first three years following that bill's enactment, respectively. These revenues would offset DMV's costs and produce net surpluses of \$1,729,845, \$2,322,068 and \$2,768,021, respectively. In its cost and revenue estimates, DMV assumes that 45,000 motorists would apply for the plates annually and that all plate holders would renew their plates.

The Office of Legislative Services concurred with that estimate and finds that these figures represent a reasonable estimate for this bill.

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR NEWS RELEASE

**CN-001
Contact:**

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TRENTON, N.J. 08625

Release: Saturday
July 10, 1993

SPECIAL LICENSE PLATE PROCEEDS TO ENHANCE ANIMAL WELFARE

PRINCETON -- A special license plate will provide a steady source of funding for the state's animal population control program under legislation signed today by Governor Jim Florio, to help decrease the birth of dogs and cats who cannot be cared for.

"We're here today because we share a common interest in animal welfare and concern for our communities," said Governor Florio, who signed the new law at Drumthwacket, the Governor's residence, where he was joined by animal welfare support groups. "This bill provides a positive way for New Jerseyans to show how much we appreciate, respect and care about our pets."

"This bill will restore funding to a very worthy program, the Animal Population Control Fund," he said. "This special license plate will help remind people about the importance of spaying and neutering our dogs and cats."

The license plate, which could be ready later this year, would be available for \$50, with an additional \$10 fee collected annually with registration renewals. Proceeds will be deposited in the Animal Population Control Fund established in the state Department of Health, which was created in 1983 to provide low-cost spaying and neutering of dogs and cats belonging to persons on public assistance. The program has served as an innovative model, copied in 17 other states.

The program is currently funded through a \$3 surcharge on dog licenses for non-neutered dogs. In 1986, the program was expanded to also include pets adopted from New Jersey shelters and animal pounds, but had to be curtailed last year due to lack of funding. Depending on the success of the new license plate, the program could be expanded again.

Statewide, 205 veterinary hospitals participate in the program. Since it began, the program has paid for altering more than 69,000 pets. The license plate will be designed by the Health Department in consultation with animal welfare groups and the initial \$100,000 collected would be used to defray the costs of producing the license plates.

"New Jersey communities spend millions of dollars each year to control and eliminate unwanted animals. This bill will cut those costs significantly.

Every year, too many pets are ignored, abandoned or subjected to cruelty by people who don't give them the care and love they need. That's just not a situation we can allow to continue," Governor Florio said.

Each day more than 70,000 puppies and kittens are born nationwide compared to 10,000 human births, according to the Humane Society of the United States. The organization estimates that in six years, one female dog and her offspring can be the source of 67,000 puppies. In seven years, one female cat and her kittens can produce 420,000 cats. Each year, more than 12 million dogs and cats are left at animal shelters around the country; nearly 9 million are put to sleep due to lack of adoption, according to the Humane Society. In New Jersey, nearly 100,000 dogs and cats are euthanized each year.

Joining the Governor at the bill signing were representatives of the New Jersey Veterinary Medical Association, the Humane Society of the United States and the Animal Control Officers Association of New Jersey.

A 2263 was sponsored by Assemblymen Walter J. Kavanaugh and John Penn.

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