

HB 0211

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1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to animal welfare protection programs;
 3 creating s. 570.93, F.S.; creating the Florida Animal
 4 Friend Council as a direct-support organization of the
 5 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for the
 6 purpose of distributing funds received for sale of the
 7 Animal Friend license plate; providing for membership and
 8 meetings of the council; providing for a grant
 9 solicitation and award process; providing purposes for
 10 funding; amending ss. 320.08056 and 320.08058, F.S.;
 11 creating the Animal Friend license plate; providing for
 12 the distribution of annual use fees received from the sale
 13 of such plates; providing an effective date.

14
 15 WHEREAS, 2,000 dogs and 3,000 cats are born every hour in
 16 the United States, and

17 WHEREAS, one unspayed female dog, her mate, and their
 18 offspring can produce 67,000 dogs in only 6 years, and

19 WHEREAS, one unspayed female cat, her mate, and their
 20 offspring can produce 370,092 cats in just 7 years, and

21 WHEREAS, an estimated 800,000 homeless cats and dogs were
 22 euthanized in Florida in the year 2002, NOW, THEREFORE,

23
 24 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

25
 26 Section 1. Section 570.93, Florida Statutes, is created to
 27 read:

28 570.93 Florida Animal Friend Council.--The Florida Animal
 29 Friend Council is created as a direct-support organization of

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30 the department to provide for distribution of funds received
 31 from the sale of the Animal Friend license plate under s.
 32 320.08058.

33 (1) The council shall be administered by a board of
 34 directors composed of five members as follows:

35 (a) A representative of the Humane Society of the United
 36 States.

37 (b) A representative of the Florida Veterinary Medical
 38 Association.

39 (c) A representative of the Florida Animal Control
 40 Association.

41 (d) One member at large who shall be appointed by the
 42 members of the council and shall serve for 2 years. This member
 43 shall represent a not-for-profit organization not directly
 44 affiliated with any other member of the council. This member
 45 shall not apply for a grant during the years in which he or she
 46 serves.

47 (e) One member at large who shall be appointed by the
 48 Commissioner of Agriculture.

49 (2) Members of the board, unless otherwise specified in
 50 subsection (1), shall serve a term of 4 years or until their
 51 successors are duly qualified and appointed. Members may serve
 52 consecutive terms.

53 (3) The board shall meet at least biannually.

54 (4) All moneys received by the council shall be deposited
 55 into an account of the council.

56 (5) The board shall develop and administer a grant
 57 solicitation and award process for distribution of funds
 58 received for the sale of the Animal Friend license plate

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59 pursuant to the provisions of s. 320.08058. Funding may only be
 60 granted and used for those proposals which are in compliance
 61 with federal, state, and local laws and ordinances. The council
 62 shall provide for the distribution of funds which shall be used
 63 only for the following purposes:

64 (a) Spay and neuter programs provided by not-for-profit
 65 organizations or governmental agencies in Florida that deal with
 66 spay or neuter programs.

67 (b) Other emergency animal welfare protection programs or
 68 projects, provided that funding for the program or project is
 69 approved by a unanimous vote of the council.

70 Section 2. Paragraph (ss) is added to subsection (4) of
 71 section 320.08056, Florida Statutes, to read:

72 320.08056 Specialty license plates.--

73 (4) The following license plate annual use fees shall be
 74 collected for the appropriate specialty license plates:

75 (ss) Animal Friend license plate, \$25.

76 Section 3. Subsection (45) is added to section 320.08058,
 77 Florida Statutes, to read:

78 320.08058 Specialty license plates.--

79 (45) ANIMAL FRIEND LICENSE PLATES.--

80 (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 320.08053, the
 81 department shall develop an Animal Friend license plate as
 82 provided in this section. Animal Friend license plates must bear
 83 the colors and design approved by the department. The word
 84 "Florida" must appear at the top of the plate, and the words
 85 "Animal Friend" must appear at the bottom of the plate.

86 (b)1. The proceeds of the annual use fee shall be
 87 distributed to the Florida Animal Friend Council as created in

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88 s. 570.93 and used as provided for in that section.

89 2. In the first year the plate is issued, no more than 25
90 percent of the fees collected may be used for administrative
91 costs directly associated with the operation of the Florida
92 Animal Friend Council and marketing and promotion of the Animal
93 Friend concept and license plate.

94 3. In the second and subsequent years the plate is issued,
95 no more than 20 percent of the fees collected may be used for
96 administrative costs directly associated with the operation of
97 the Florida Animal Friend Council and marketing and promotion of
98 the Animal Friend concept and license plate.

99 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004.