

CHAMBER ACTION

1 The Committee on Transportation recommends the following:

2  
3 **Committee Substitute**

4 Remove the entire bill and insert:

5 A bill to be entitled

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

18  
19 WHEREAS, 2,000 dogs and 3,000 cats are born every hour in  
20 the United States, and

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

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

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

27

28 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

29

30 Section 1. Section 570.93, Florida Statutes, is created to  
31 read:

32 570.93 Florida Animal Friend Council.--The Florida Animal  
33 Friend Council is created as a direct-support organization of  
34 the department to provide for distribution of funds received  
35 from the sale of the Animal Friend license plate under s.  
36 320.08058.

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

39 (a) A representative of the Humane Society of the United  
40 States.

41 (b) A representative of the Florida Veterinary Medical  
42 Association.

43 (c) A representative of the Florida Animal Control  
44 Association.

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

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

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

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

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

60 (5) The board shall develop and administer a grant  
61 solicitation and award process for distribution of funds  
62 received for the sale of the Animal Friend license plate  
63 pursuant to the provisions of s. 320.08058. Funding may only be  
64 granted and used for those proposals which are in compliance  
65 with federal, state, and local laws and ordinances. The council  
66 shall provide for the distribution of funds which shall be used  
67 only for the following purposes:

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

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

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

76 320.08056 Specialty license plates.--

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

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

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

82           320.08058 Specialty license plates.--

83           (45) ANIMAL FRIEND LICENSE PLATES.--

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

90           (b)1. The department shall retain initial annual use fee  
91 proceeds sufficient to cover its costs related to the  
92 development and issuance of the Animal Friend license plate, not  
93 to exceed \$60,000. Thereafter, the proceeds of the annual use  
94 fee shall be distributed to the Florida Animal Friend Council as  
95 created in s. 570.93 and used as provided for in that section.

96           2. In the first year the plate is issued, no more than 25  
97 percent of the fees collected may be used for administrative  
98 costs directly associated with the operation of the Florida  
99 Animal Friend Council and marketing and promotion of the Animal  
100 Friend concept and license plate.

101           3. In the second and subsequent years the plate is issued,  
102 no more than 20 percent of the fees collected may be used for  
103 administrative costs directly associated with the operation of  
104 the Florida Animal Friend Council and marketing and promotion of  
105 the Animal Friend concept and license plate.

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