Bill as Introduced

2/20/02 2742s

SB 406 - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

2002 SESSION

02-3152
08/01

SENATE BILL ***406***

AN ACT relative to animal control and animal population control fees for cats.

SPONSORS: Sen. Wheeler, Dist 21; Sen. Roberge, Dist 9; Rep. Babson, Carr 5; Rep. Rausch, Rock 13; Rep. Wendelboe, Belk 2; Rep. Phinizy, Sull 7

COMMITTEE: Wildlife and Recreation

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill raises the fee for animal sterilization for animals adopted from animal shelters.

This bill also establishes a fee to be paid by cat owners to provide funds to the companion animal population control program.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics.***
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Two

AN ACT relative to animal control and animal population control fees for cats.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 Eligibility of Owner of Dog or Cat to Participate. Amend RSA 437-A:3 to read as follows:

437-A:3 Eligibility of Owner of Dog or Cat to Participate.

I. A resident of the state who has adopted a dog or cat from an animal shelter facility, as defined in RSA 437:2, I, shall be eligible to participate in the program if the owner signs a consent form certifying that the person is the owner of the dog or cat or is authorized by the owner to present the dog or cat for the operation, ***and such person pays a fee of $30. This fee may be adjusted periodically by the commissioner to reflect changes in the cost of living***. The sterilization shall be performed by a participating veterinarian[~~, and the fee for the operation shall be $25~~].

II. A resident of the state who owns a dog or cat and who is eligible for one of the following programs shall also be eligible to participate in a reduced fee companion animal population control program if the owner signs a consent form certifying that the person is the owner of the dog or cat or is authorized by the owner to present the dog or cat for the procedure and such person pays a fee of [~~$10~~] ***$15. This fee may be adjusted periodically by the commissioner to reflect changes in the cost of living***:

(a) The Food Stamp Program authorized by Title XIII of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. section 2011 et seq.) and RSA 161:2, XIII.

(b) The Supplemental Security Income Program established pursuant to Title XVI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. section 1381 et seq.).

(c) The Aid to Families with Dependent Children Act established pursuant to 42 U.S.C. section 601 et seq. and RSA 161-B.

(d) The aid to the needy blind program established under RSA 161:2, V.

(e) The medicaid program established under RSA 167.

(f) The old age assistance program established under RSA 167.

(g) The aid to the permanently and totally disabled program established under RSA 167.

2 New Paragraph; Rulemaking. Amend RSA 437-A:5 by inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraph:

II-a. The adjustment of the fee under RSA 437-A:3, I or II.

3 Subdivision Heading. Amend the subdivision heading preceding RSA 466:13-a to read as follows:

Licensing of Cats***; Companion Pet Overpopulation Fee for Cats***

4 New Sections; Companion Pet Overpopulation Fee for Cats. Amend RSA 466 by inserting

after section 13-a the following new sections:

466:13-b Fees. Every owner or keeper of a cat 4 months old or over shall pay a fee, every 36 months, to the office of the clerk of the city or town in which the cat is kept.

466:13-c Rabies Certificate. Upon receipt of a copy of a rabies certificate from a veterinarian pursuant to RSA 436:102, the clerk of the town or city shall send written notice to the owner or keeper of any cat for which a fee has not been received relative to the requirements provided for in RSA 466:13-b. If the owner or keeper of the cat fails to pay the fee in a timely manner, the town or city clerk shall notify the local law enforcement officer of a violation of RSA 466:13-b.

466:13-d Fees.

I. Every 36 months, the owner of each cat shall pay the clerk of the city or town where the cat is kept a fee of $10, of which $5 is designated for the companion animal population control program.

II. The clerk shall remit all companion animal population control fees collected in paragraph I to the state treasurer, provided that such companion animal population control fees shall be deposited into the companion animal neutering fund, established in RSA 437-A:4-a.

III. Fees for cats kept in a commercial kennel shall be based on the numbers of cats kept, as provided in RSA 466:13-e for group fees. For purposes of this paragraph, "commercial kennel' means the establishment or domicile of any person who sells cats at wholesale or retail; and, if retail, who sells or transfers 10 or more litters per year, or sells or transfers 50 or more kittens per year; or who derives 40 percent or more of gross annual income from the sale or transfer of cats.

466:13-e Group Fees.

I. The owner or keeper of 5 or more cats shall pay $40 as a group fee, $20 of which shall be remitted by the town clerk for deposit into the companion animal neutering fund, established in RSA 437-A:4-a, as the companion animal population control fee, and $20 shall be retained by the town or municipality.

II. No fee shall be required for cats which are under the age of 3 months.

466:13-f Records. Clerks of towns and cities shall keep a record of all fees received, with the names of the keepers or owners of cats, and the names, and descriptions of all such cats. Clerks of towns and cities shall furnish yearly to the local governing body a list of those owners who have failed to their fees for use in preparing the warrant of cats for which fees have not been paid.

466:13-g Forfeiture. Whoever is the owner or keeper of a cat and who fails to pay the fees pursuant to RSA 466:13-b shall forfeit $25 to the town or city clerk of the municipality in which the cat is kept. If the forfeiture is not made to the town or city clerk within 15 calendar days of the notice of forfeiture, the case may be disposed of in a district court as a violation with a fine not to exceed $50, notwithstanding the provisions of RSA 651:2, IV. A forfeiture shall not relieve the owner or keeper of the requirement of paying a fee for a cat as required by RSA 466:13-b. Any forfeitures collected under this section may be retained by the city or town for the administration and

enforcement of this subdivision.

5 Disposal of Fees. Amend RSA 466:5 to read as follows:

466:5 Disposal of Fees. All moneys arising from the licensing of dogs and cats, if the municipality licenses cats, ***or fees collected under RSA 466:13-b,*** remaining in the treasury of any town or city at the end of the town or city fiscal year, which is not due to holders of orders given for loss of or damages to domestic animals by dogs, or which has not been paid to the department of agriculture, markets, and food under RSA 466:9 or the state treasurer under RSA 466:4, I(c) shall be for the use of the town or city.

6 Effective Date. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2002.

Amendments

Rep. Patten, Carr 9
Rep. Brundige, Hills. 18
March 25, 2002
2002-3095h
08/01

Amendment to SB 406

Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

AN ACT relative to animal control.

Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

1 Eligibility of Owner of Dog or Cat to Participate. Amend RSA 437-A:3 to read as follows:

437-A:3 Eligibility of Owner of Dog or Cat to Participate.

I. A resident of the state who has adopted a dog or cat from an animal shelter facility, as defined in RSA 437:2, I, shall be eligible to participate in the program if the owner signs a consent form certifying that the person is the owner of the dog or cat or is authorized by the owner to present the dog or cat for the operation***, and such person pays a fee of $30.*** The sterilization shall be performed by a participating veterinarian[~~, and the fee for the operation shall be $25~~].

II. A resident of the state who owns a dog or cat and who is eligible for one of the following programs shall also be eligible to participate in a reduced fee companion animal population control program if the owner signs a consent form certifying that the person is the owner of the dog or cat or is authorized by the owner to present the dog or cat for the procedure and such person pays a fee of [~~$10~~] ***$15***:

(a) The Food Stamp Program authorized by Title XIII of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. section 2011 et seq.) and RSA 161:2, XIII.

(b) The Supplemental Security Income Program established pursuant to Title XVI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. section 1381 et seq.).

(c) The [~~Aid to Families with Dependent Children~~] ***Temporary Assistance for Needy Families*** Act established pursuant to 42 U.S.C. section 601 et seq. and RSA 161-B.

(d) The aid to the needy blind program established under RSA 161:2, V.

(e) The medicaid program established under RSA 167.

(f) The old age assistance program established under RSA 167.

(g) The aid to the permanently and totally disabled program established under RSA 167.

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

2002-3095h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill raises the fee for animal sterilization for animals adopted from animal shelters.

Speakers

SIGN UP SHEET

To Register Opinion If Not Speaking

Bill # HB 406 Date March 20/02

Committee Mun. + County Comm.

** Please Print All Information **

Name	Address	Phone	Representing	(check one) Pro	Con
Bryan Christiansen		589-3260	City of Nashua		+
Geoff M. Quitman 3rd		329-6090	ROCK #15		X

Hearing Minutes

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

PUBLIC HEARING ON SB 406

BILL TITLE: (New Title) relative to animal control and animal population control fees for cats.

DATE: 3/20/01

LOB ROOM: 301 **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 10.00a.m.

Time Adjourned: 11.00a.m.

(please circle if present)

Committee Members: Reps. Patten, Brundige, Griffin, Akins, Lockwood, R. Eaton, Fairbanks, Lachance, Twombly, Boyce, M. Fraser, Dumaine, Guinta, Matthew Quandt, N. Johnson, Bellavance, M. Cooney, Goodwin, Scovner, W Johnson and Quandt.

Bill Sponsors: Sen wheeler, Dist 21; Sen Roberge, Dist. 9; Rep. Babson, Carr 9; Rep. Rausch, Rock 13; Rep. Wendelboe, Belk 2; Rep. Phinizy, Sull 7.

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

Rep. Rausch, Rock 13.

Supports the original bill which increases the fee foe neutering adopted pets. The second portion of the bill is an amendment, which he does not support. Supports the concept of a fee for cat owners to help cover the cost of neutering. This amendment is in the wrong section of law, should apply to only owners, not keepers of cats and should have no penalty.

Rep. Babson, Carr 5.

This bill is a product of the pet over population committee. This is a question of fairness and economics. The neutering program run by the state is a good, well run program. The program is in need of more money to stay in effect yearlong. Cat owners pay nothing to this program, but it is used 3:1 for euthanizing cats. Town clerks would get $5.00 from the fee.

Sen. Wheeler, Dist 21.

Chairs the pet over population committee. It is time to raise the fee for neutering. There is no opposition to the first part of the bill. The second part, the cat equity section is more controversial. The vets already send the rabies inoculation forms to town clerks. The enforcement clause in this bill is unworkable. Suggests passing this bill as introduced and deal with the amendment later.

Sen. Roberge., Dist.9

Responsible for amending this bill to include cats. The cat people do not pay their share for euthanization. Feels that it is important to include them, but is willing to wait another year and feels the original bill is very important.

* Carol De Rocher, NH City and Town Clerks Assoc.

Opposes the amendment to this bill. See handout.
The association didn't have an opinion on the original bill, but her personal opinion is that it ought to pass.

Dennis Mackey, Town of Bath, Animal Control Office

Supports the original bill and opposes the amendment. Feels that feral cat control belongs to the Fish and Game Department. It is difficult to determine if a stray cat is feral or domestic. The fees in this amendment would not cover the costs involved. Population reduction of cats increases the rodent population. There is a check and balance involved in animal population control.

*Peter Marsh, Pet Overpopulation Commission.

Has a letter from state veterinarian who is unable to be here. The increase in the co-payment will rise about $25,000. It costs 23-24 thousand dollars per month, so the increase will allow the program to continue another month. It has been shut down for two months a year due to lack of funds. This program does help cats. We need ideas to help us include the cat population in the fee structure. Cats are the biggest risk for rabies.

David Dydo, Manchester Police Animal Control Office.

Concerned with the enforcement clause in this bill. It is not only not practical, it would be overwhelming.

*Elin Phinizy, Acworth dog breeder.

Everything needed to be said has been said. Opposes the bill.

Russell Pope, Dog Owners of the Granite State.

Supports the original bill, but opposes the amendment. Has concerns as to whether it is a governmental role to provide for pet overpopulation solutions. This does not come within the category of municipal responsibilities. Municipalities have had the ability to license cats for some time now and none have chosen to do it.

Bryan Christiansen, City of Nashua.

He has concerns about the amendment. Administration and enforcement would be expensive and time consuming. More manpower would be necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

Priscilla P. Lockwood

Priscilla P. Lockwood
Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

PUBLIC HEARING ON {Type full BILL NO. here}

BILL TITLE:

DATE: {Type HEARING DATE here}

LOB ROOM: {RM #} **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** {Time}

Time Adjourned: {Time}

(please circle if present)

Committee Members: Reps. Patten, Brundige, Griffin, Akins, Lockwood, R. Eaton, Fairbanks, Lachance, Twombly, Boyce, M. Fraser, Dumaine, Guinta, N. Johnson, Bellavance, M. Cooney, Goodwin, Scovner and W. Johnson.

Bill Sponsors: {Type SPONSORS' NAMES}

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

Testimony

BILL JOHNSON

From: "Debbie Eastman" <deastman@gilfordnh.org>
To: "Bill Johnson" <billjohn@metrocast.net>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2002 1:39 PM
Subject: Fw: SB406

Bill-
I, too, am opposed to the licensing of cats. Whereas it may insure that some cats receive rabies shots, there will always be stray cats that will not. Please pass on opposition to this bill for the NH City and Town CLerks' Association and myself.
Thanks
Debbie Eastman
----- Original Message -----
From: "Phil Arel" <parel@gilfordnh.org>
To: <deastman@gilfordnh.org>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2002 11:51 AM
Subject: SB406

>
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: owner-nhlogin@nhlogin.org [mailto:owner-nhlogin@nhlogin.org]On
> Behalf Of Diane Pollock
> Sent: Monday, March 11, 2002 11:04
> To: list@nhlogin.org
> Subject: [NHLoGIN] SB406
>
>
> This message is being sent on behalf of the New Hampshire City and Town
> Clerks' Association.
>
> SB406 is scheduled for hearing on Wednesday, March 20th at 10:00 am in the
> LOB. This bill proposes mandatory cat licensing. The New Hampshire City
and
> Town Clerks' Association strongly opposes this bill. Since 1995, when the
> dog licensing laws were changed to its current form, many municipalities
> have been burdened with the workload involved and staffing issues to carry
> out the procedures. The costs to notify the owner, staff time for
> researching and developing notification, and enforcement costs for failure
> to license, far exceed the revenues realized by the municipality. It is
our
> belief that passage of this bill will perpetuate these types of problems.
>
> Please pass this message along to your city or town clerk, police
> department, animal control officer, or any one else involved in licensing
> and enforcement issues regarding animals.
>
>
> Diane Pollock
> Town Clerk/Tax Collector
> PO Box 27
> Merrimack, NH 03054-0027
> (603) 424-3651
> dpollock@ci.merrimack.nh.us
>
> NHLoGIN Listserv is sponsored by the New Hampshire Local Government

The San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
2500 16th Street • San Francisco, CA 94103-6589 • (415) 554-3000

Position Statement
January 3, 1995

Against Mandatory Cat Licensing

Can licensing wipe out homelessness, raise the status of the underprivileged, eliminate the budget crisis, and make people more caring and responsible? Few would believe these claims, if they were being made about a program to license people. Yet, when it comes to cats, we are asked to believe all these claims are true: According to proponents, mandatory cat licensing will put an end to the problem of stray and abandoned cats, raise the status of felines, increase funding for budget-strapped animal control agencies, and make cat owners more responsible. Unfortunately, licensing cats, like licensing people, won't do any of these things.

The San Francisco SPCA has considered the various claims made for mandatory cat licensing legislation and has found little in the way of evidence—or even, in some cases, common sense—to support them. In our view, rather than helping cats or their caretakers, the primary effects of mandatory cat licensing legislation would be to:

(1) put the lives and well-being of cats at risk and serve as a tool for round-up-and-kill campaigns;
(2) penalize responsible cat owners and force many compassionate caretakers to stop providing for homeless and abandoned cats;
(3) cost local governments and taxpayers money; and
(4) inappropriately expand the power and reach of government bureaucracies and enforcement agencies.

Indeed, the most vocal proponents of cat licensing have been municipal animal control agencies and humane organizations that hold contracts to perform animal control services—the very agencies and organizations that stand to gain the most in terms of more staff, larger budgets, and expanded enforcement and community oversight powers. Since none of these broad new powers will help cats, their caretakers, or the local taxpayers (who will ultimately have to foot the bill), we cannot escape the conclusion that the call for cat licensing legislation has more to do with increasing bureaucratic powers, than with compassion, saving lives, and providing a helping hand to those who care.

Our analysis of each of the claims made for mandatory cat licensing is attached. For further information on The San Francisco SPCA and its programs to help cats and cat caretakers, please contact us at 2500 -16th Street, San Francisco, California 94103-6589, (415) 554-3000.

The San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
2500 16th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103-6589 • (415) 554-3000

Cat Licensing:
Analysis of Claims

Claim: **Cat licensing will make cat owners more responsible.**

Caring can't be mandated, and a licensing mandate will only end up punishing those who care. There are millions of compassionate people who provide abandoned cats with food, love, and shelter in their own homes. Others put aside their own needs in order to care for a beloved pet or make sure a shy and reclusive neighborhood cat has daily sustenance and medical attention. Still others work tirelessly to feed, foster and rehabilitate feral cats and kittens, all at their own personal expense. For every one of these caregivers, mandatory cat licensing will exact a heavy toll. These people will either have to pay the license fees—in essence, a "cat tax" on each of the pets they care for—or face citations, fines, penalties, and possible confiscation of the animals they love. These new burdens, inflicted on the very people who are doing the most to help cats in their communities, will force many to stop caring for these animals, or at least force them to care for fewer cats, with the net result being more cats left to fend for themselves and fewer people able to provide them with any kind of safety net at all.

In response to these concerns, some cat licensing proponents have said that enforcement won't be stressed, or will only be "complaint driven." In our view, passing laws that aren't enforced or are enforced sporadically is just as unfair and counterproductive: Few people are likely to comply with a cat licensing mandate that isn't enforced. (In Los Angeles, for instance, compliance rates of less than 1% were reported, in spite of a canvassing program.*) And people who "voluntarily" comply can probably be counted among the *most* responsible (and affluent) pet owners in the community. We see little equity or sense in enacting a law that only ends up penalizing through a licensing tax the very people whose behavior is already exemplary.

Needless to say, truly irresponsible cat owners won't be affected. If the law isn't enforced, they are free to ignore it. If it is enforced against them, they are likely to surrender or abandon their animals, which will only add to the number of cats killed.

---

* San Diego County Animal Control Advisory Committee, Subcommittee on Cat Licensing. Report to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, November 22, 1993, p. 6.

Claim: **Cat licensing will help raise the status of cats.**

In our view, this claim is on a par with the suggestion that licensing poor people or the homeless will help raise their "status." Of course, cat licensing proponents aren't making a comparison to people, but to dogs: if cats are licensed like dogs, they will apparently enjoy the same "status" as dogs. Unfortunately, dog licensing didn't confer any beneficial "status" on canines: it was and is a tool for protecting livestock, enforcing rabies laws, and ridding the public streets of the perceived threat posed by unowned, free-roaming dogs. Indeed, since 1933 California dog licensing laws have explicitly authorized the impoundment of unlicensed dogs, and millions of dogs have been impounded and killed by animal control agencies throughout the state as a result of these mandatory licensing laws.

This is the precedent to which proponents of cat licensing appeal when they claim that licensing will raise the "status" of cats. We doubt, however, whether cats would choose such a status for themselves. They might well prefer to retain the unlicensed status they now share with humans. And the dogs may want to join them.

Claim: **Cat licensing will result in more cats being redeemed at shelters.**

Unfortunately, the evidence suggests that cat redemptions are just as likely, if not more likely, to decline once voluntary cat identification efforts are replaced with a coercive licensing mandate. In Los Angeles County, for instance, the number of stray cats redeemed by their owners was reported to be down 32% following implementation of mandatory licensing laws.*

Proponents have tended to ignore evidence like this, and instead point to the fact that dogs, who have been subject to licensing laws for years, enjoy higher redemption rates than cats. But dogs differ from cats in many ways, and there is no reason to think licensing is the factor that results in the higher redemption rate for dogs. Indeed, in San Francisco 63% of the stray dogs at the City's Animal Care and Control Department were redeemed by their owners in the 1993-4 fiscal year. Yet less than 4% of the dogs impounded during that time were licensed. It seems clear, then, that factors other than licensing are responsible for the high redemption rate for dogs.

---

* San Diego County Animal Control Advisory Committee, Subcommittee on Cat Licensing. Report to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, November 22, 1993, p. 7.

This Document did not include a Page 3

Claim: Cat licensing will help decrease shelter euthanasias.

Since cat licensing will likely result in more cats being surrendered to shelters and abandoned in the community, since it will not appreciably affect redemptions, and since it may very well become a vehicle for round-up-and-kill campaigns, it is difficult for us to see how it would result in a decrease in shelter euthanasias.

Claim: Cat licensing will raise money to help fund animal control agencies.

Cat licensing will cost local governments and taxpayers money, not raise it, resulting in a net loss to animal control and/or other vital government services. Indeed, we doubt whether revenues raised would even cover basic administrative expenses. For example, each license fee collected--and most proposals we've seen set the fee between $5 and $10--will have to cover the costs of manufacturing, handling, storing and mailing the actual licenses (and/or implanting microchips), handling the checks and cash received, issuing receipts, recording and filing the necessary data on each cat and owner, updating the data as needed, responding to public questions and comments, mailing out renewal notices and reminders, preparing accounting statements and annual program reports, etc. This list doesn't include overhead or initial start-up expenses, like hiring and training staff to run the new program and developing new computer programs and databases.

And if the fees collected won't cover basic administrative expenses, they certainly won't cover the enormous costs of pubic awareness campaigns and enforcement. As noted above, "voluntary" compliance with cat licensing mandates is notoriously low. To raise compliance rates, the community will have to be made aware of the new mandate: door-to-door canvassing, city and countywide mailings, advertisements in local print media--all bear significant costs. And these campaigns will have to be repeated on a regular basis to maintain public awareness. Of course, these efforts alone won't ensure compliance, and they will have to be backed by meaningful enforcement. New enforcement staff will have to be hired, or existing staff taken away from other essential duties, in order to patrol the community for unlicensed cats, respond to complaints, issue citations, prepare reports, etc. *And all these costs will have to be paid by local taxpayers, either through higher taxes or through cuts in other vital government services.*

Claim: **Dog owners contribute to animal control costs through license fees; it's time cat owners pay their fair share.**

Just as license fees aren't likely to cover the real costs of a cat licensing program, we strongly doubt whether the fees now paid by dog owners cover much more than the basic costs of administering dog licensing programs. From a fiscal standpoint, therefore, local governments and taxpayers, not to mention dog owners, may well be better off if mandatory dog licensing were simply abolished. In any event, enacting another costly government program that won't pay for itself isn't the way to give dog owners the equity they seek.

No doubt there will be animal control agencies and contracting humane organizations who dispute our analysis and offer projections to show that cat licensing will make money for animal control services in their communities. We believe these agencies should be willing to stand behind these projections by having their taxpayer-financed budgets cut by the projected amount. Without this or a similar mechanism for accountability, we fear cat licensing will become yet another expensive government program that only works to inappropriately expand government bureaucracies at the expense of local taxpayers, responsible cat caretakers, and the animals themselves.

Claim: **Regulating cat owners through licensing and other mandates is the only way to solve cat problems.**

In our view, the way to teach people to be responsible pet owners and help the cats in a community is through voluntary, incentive-based measures that enable people to do the right thing. Government mandates that seek to blame and punish pet owners are likely to be costly and counterproductive for all the reasons we have outlined above. Moreover, it seems to us grossly unfair to penalize the community at large through coercive mandates, when it is the local shelters who are the primary source of animals and whose policies and practices have the greatest impact, for better or worse, on local animal welfare issues.

We realize, however, that in some cases local shelter policies may have failed and animal problems may be worsening in a community. In such cases, government intervention might be warranted, provided it is carefully focused to have the greatest impact. For instance, requiring shelters to alter animals before adoption and to devote a substantial proportion of their annual animal control and shelter budgets (e.g., 10-20%) to offering free spay/neuter services would do far more to help cats and reduce pet overpopulation than cat licensing and other punitive mandates.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION
ANIMAL POPULATION CONTROL FEE FOR CATS

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to go on record as being against licensing of cats! There are too many "barn cats" running around that supposedly have no owners. The licensing of dogs has been such a horror show, costing more to administer the program then what is received in revenue. I can't imagine what the cost would be to administer a "cat licensing" program. In our case, there would have to be the cost of programming a new "cat licensing program" for our computer, cost for having the licensing forms printed, and postage for sending letters out when they don't register.

I know that the Town Government would have to increase the amount of money they now pay for animal control officers if they had to respond to "cat calls"!!

Please vote no on this legislation!!!!

Patricia M. Waterman
Town Clerk
Wolfeboro, New Hampshire

New Hampshire
Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food

Animal Population Control Program

March 19, 2002

Municipal and County Government Committee

RE: SB 406

Members of the Committee:

I am Clifford W. McGinnis, State Veterinarian and Administrator of the New Hampshire Animal Population Control Program. I cannot be here as I am attending a poultry disease conference.

SB 406 is supported by the Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food and myself as Administrator. Mr. Peter Marsh, public member of the Animal Population Control Committee, has all of the figures for the program and will explain them to you.

If there are any questions, please call me at 271-2404.

Sincerely,

Clifford W. McGinnis
State Veterinarian

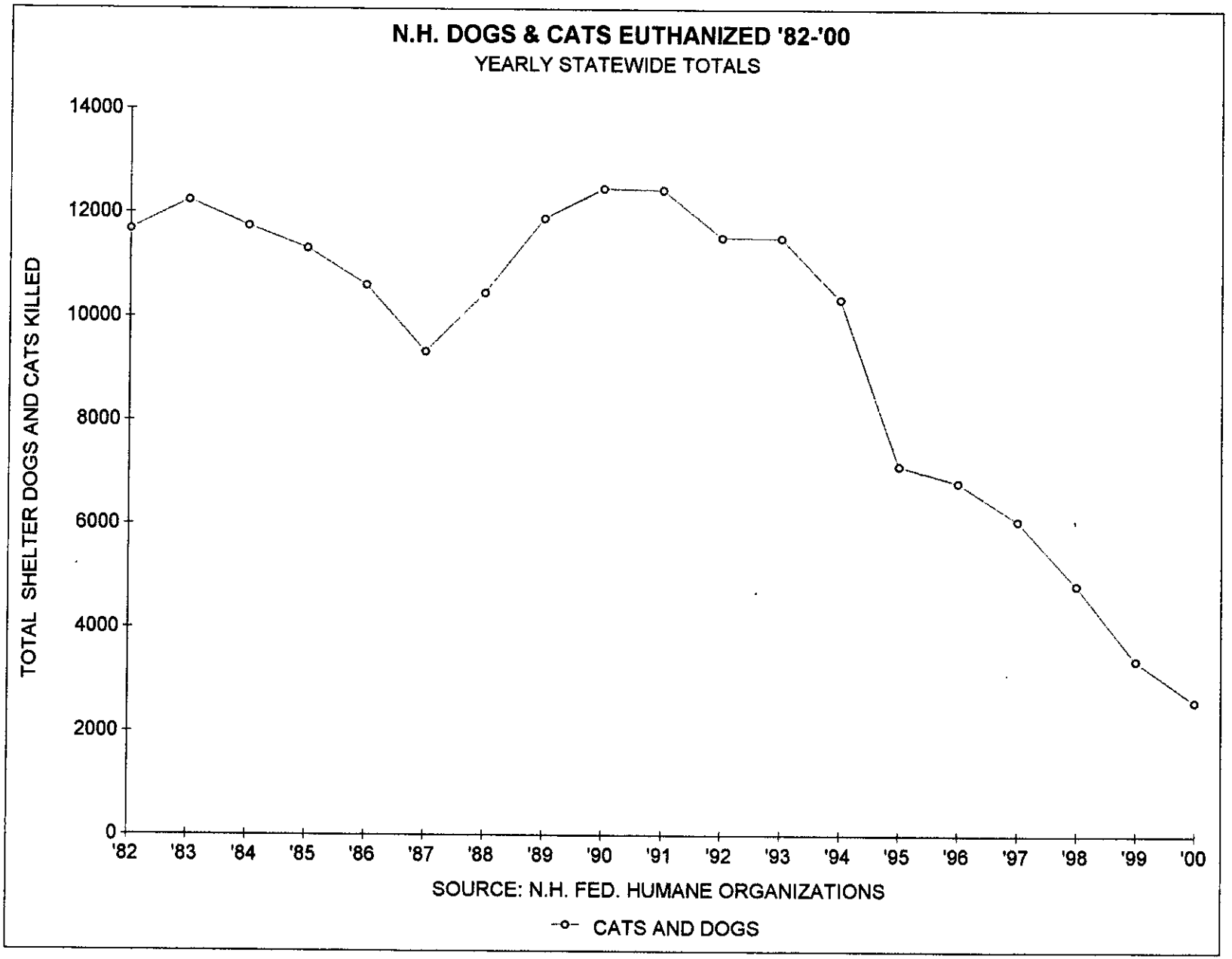
PO Box 2042 · Concord, NH 03302-2042
271-3697 · Fax: 271-1109 · E-Mail ecampbell@agr.state.nh.us

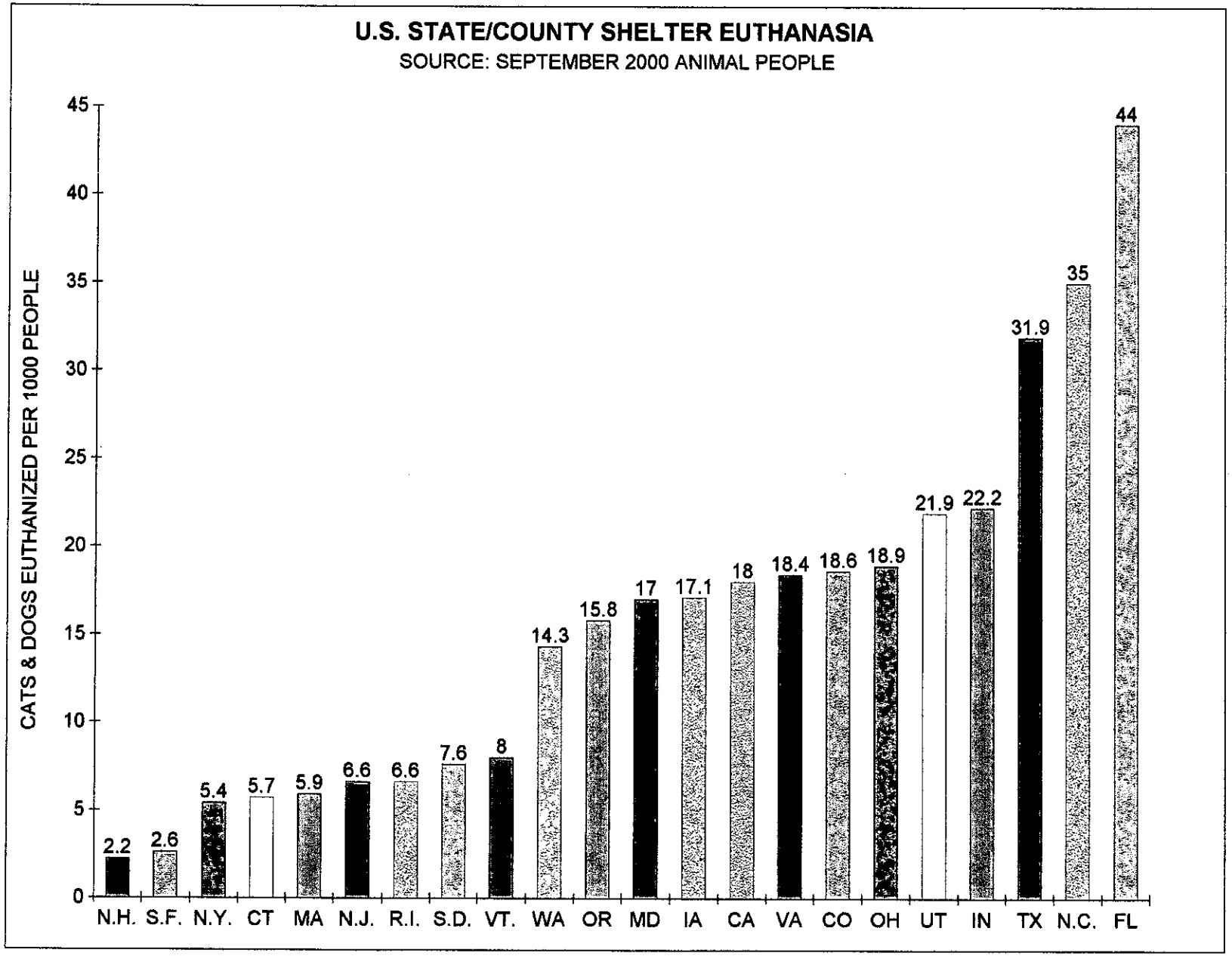
ANIMAL POPULATION CONTROL PROGRAM

FISCAL YEAR 2002
MONTHLY SUMMARY

MONTH	PLAN A	PLAN B	TOTAL A + B	COST OF SURGERIES	AVG. COST PER SURG.	TOTAL DOGS	TOTAL CATS
Prev FY Outstanding	32	12	44	$2,335.70	$53.08	12	32
JULY	196	137	333	$20,422.97	$61.33	99	234
AUG	243	119	362	$20,906.84	$57.75	101	261
SEPT	254	101	355	$18,120.18	$51.04	68	287
OCT	302	154	456	$25,263.01	$55.40	97	359
NOV	283	113	396	$20,303.64	$51.27	57	339
DEC	322	106	428	$21,736.39	$50.79	90	338
JAN	321	123	444	$24,175.40	$54.45	75	369
FEB	253	153	406	$23,963.48	$59.02	68	338
MAR			0				
APR			0				
MAY			0				
JUNE			0				
TOTALS	**2206**	**1018**	**3224**	**$177,227.61**	**$54.97**	**667**	**2557**

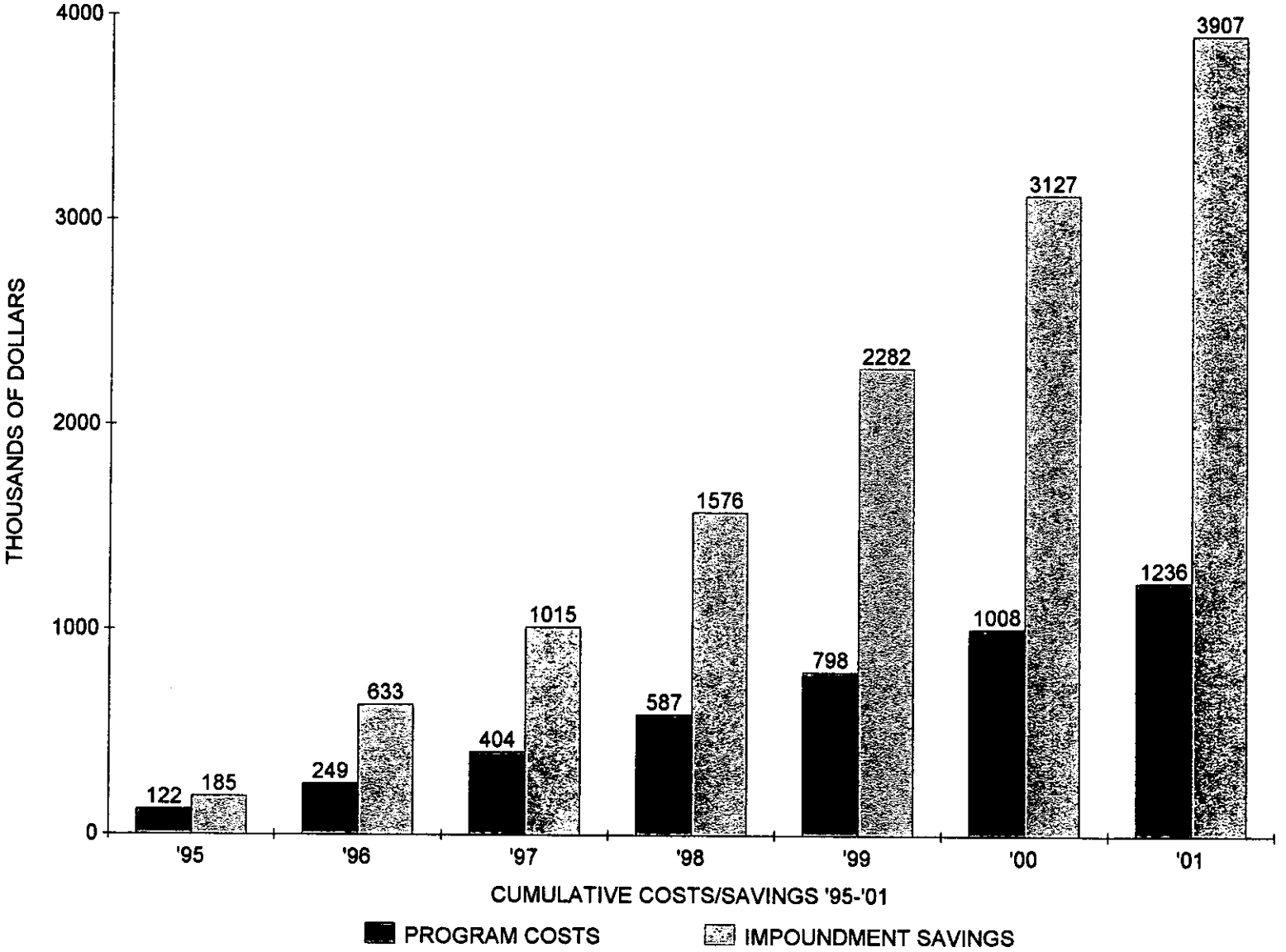
BUDGET	$162,875.00
TRANSFER	$118,000.00
PAID OUT	$177,227.61
REMAINING	**$103,647.39**


N.H. DOGS & CATS EUTHANIZED '82-'00
YEARLY STATEWIDE TOTALS
TOTAL SHELTER DOGS AND CATS KILLED
14000
12000
10000
8000
6000
4000
2000
0
'82
'83
'84
'85
'86
'87
'88
'89
'90
'91
'92
'93
'94
'95
'96
'97
'98
'99
'00
SOURCE: N.H. FED. HUMANE ORGANIZATIONS
CATS AND DOGS


U.S. STATE/COUNTY SHELTER EUTHANASIA
SOURCE: SEPTEMBER 2000 ANIMAL PEOPLE
CATS & DOGS EUTHANIZED PER 1000 PEOPLE
0
5
10
15
20
25
30
35
40
45
2.2
2.6
5.4
5.7
5.9
6.6
6.6
7.6
8
14.3
15.8
17
17.1
18
18.4
18.6
18.9
21.9
22.2
31.9
35
44
N.H.
S.F.
N.Y.
CT
MA
N.J.
R.I.
S.D.
VT.
WA
OR
MD
IA
CA
VA
CO
OH
UT
IN
TX
N.C.
FL

N.H. NEUTERING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

CUMULATIVE COSTS V. IMPOUNDMENT SAVINGS



NEW HAMPSHIRE CITY AND TOWN CLERKS' ASSOCIATION

(ORGANIZED OCTOBER 19, 1926)

March 20, 2002

TO: Chairman Patten and respective members of the Municipal and County Government Committee

At the recent meeting of the NH City and Town Clerk's Association we voted to strongly oppose the amendment of SB406, which allows for the mandatory licensing of cats.

As a Town Clerk & President of the NH City & Town Clerk's Association, we see the problems and burdens that would be put on all clerks, animal control officers, police departments, to say nothing of tying up district court judges hearing unlicensed cat cases should this amendment pass.

First of all, whether the Pet Overpopulation Committee chooses to call it registering or licensing, it would amount to the same thing. The clerks would have to provide tags and licensing forms, which have not been budgeted for. It would also involve additional computer programming fees, postage fees for initially notifying cat owners as well as fees for sending certified Civil Forfeiture notices to non-compliers. And, while it would only be an "every three year" responsibility of the cat owners, for the clerks it would be an on-going responsibility as we receive rabies shot notifications on a monthly basis. In my opinion, the costs for implementation of this legislation far exceed the revenues.

The purpose of this amendment is to increase the revenues for the Companion Animal Population Control Program, but at what costs to the municipalities? There must be other ways to help fund this program so that it would not run out of money part way through the year. Other agencies such as Humane Societies do fund-raisers – why can't something like this be done for this spay/neutering program. In my opinion, having the Veterinarians charge an additional fee at the time of charging for a rabies inoculation on a cat would be a more efficient way of collecting these monies.

I ask you, please not to additionally burden the clerks with this legislation as we are already having problems with the compliance of dog owners to license their pets.

I thank you for allowing me to speak on the amendment to SB406 and ask that you consider eliminating the amendment to this legislation

Respectively,

Carol A. DeRocher

Carol A. DeRocher
Swanzey Town Clerk
President, NH City and Town Clerk's Association

Voting Sheets

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

EXECUTIVE SESSION on SB 406

BILL TITLE: **(New Title) relative to animal control and animal population control fees for cats.**

DATE: 3/26/02

LOB ROOM: 301

Amendments:

Sponsor: Rep. Patten — OLS Document #: 2002-3095h

Sponsor: Rep. — OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep. — OLS Document #:

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep. Brundige

Seconded by Rep. N. Johnson

Vote: 12-1 (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep. Brundige

Seconded by Rep. Twombly

Vote: 12-1 (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

CONSENT CALENDAR VOTE: 12-1

(Vote to place on Consent Calendar must be unanimous.)

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Priscilla Lockwood, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

EXECUTIVE SESSION on {Type BILL NO.} SB 406

BILL TITLE:

DATE: 3/26/02 {Type DATE}

LOB ROOM: 301 {Type ROOM NO.}

Amendments:

Sponsor: Rep. Pattin — OLS Document #: 2002-3095h

Sponsor: Rep. — OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep. — OLS Document #:

Motions: (OTP) OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep. Brundige

Seconded by Rep. Nancy Johnson

Vote: 12-1 (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

Motions: OTP, (OTP/A), ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep. Brundige

Seconded by Rep. Twombly

Vote: 12-1 (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

CONSENT CALENDAR VOTE: {Type VOTE} unanimous

(Vote to place on Consent Calendar must be unanimous.)

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Peter E. Bragdon, Clerk

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Bill #: SB 406 **Title:**

PH Date: 3/20/02 **Exec Session Date:** 3/26/02

Motion: OTP **Amendment #:** 0002-3095h

MEMBER	YEAS	NAYS
Patten, Betsey L. Chairman	12	
Brundige, Robert W. V Chairman	1	
Griffin, Marv E		
Akins, Ralph L	2	
Lockwood, Priscilla P. Clerk	3	
Eaton, Richard S		
Fairbanks, Chandler V	4	
Lachance, Douglas A		
Twombly, James E	5	
Boyce, Laurie J		1
Dumaine, Dudley Daniels		
Guinta, Frank C	6	
Johnson, Nancy K	7	
Fraser, Marilyn A		
Bellavance, Paul C	8	
Cooney, Marv R		
Goodwin, Earle	9	
Scovner, Nancy M		
Johnson, William G	10	
Matthew Quandt	11	
TOTAL VOTE:	12	1

Printed: 12/19/2001

OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK 2002 SESSION

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Bill #: SB 406 Title: _____

PH Date: 3/ 20/02 Exec Session Date: 3/26/02

Motion: OTP-A Amendment #: (2002-3095h)

MEMBER	YEAS	NAYS
Patten, Betsey L, Chairman	12	
Brundige, Robert W, V Chairman	1	
Griffin, Marv E		
Akins, Ralph L	2	
Lockwood, Priscilla P, Clerk	3	
Eaton, Richard S		
Fairbanks, Chandler V	4	
Lachance, Douglas A		
Twombly, James E	5	
Boyce, Laurie J		1
Dumaine, Dudley Daniels		
Guinta, Frank C	6	
Johnson, Nancy K	7	
Fraser, Marilyn A		
Bellavance, Paul C	8	
Cooney, Mary R		
Goodwin, Earle	9	
Scovner, Nancy M		
Johnson, William G	10	
Quandt, Matt	11	
TOTAL VOTE:	12	1

Printed: 12/19/2001

Committee Report

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: **Municipal and County Government**

BILL NUMBER: **SB 406**

TITLE: (New Title) relative to animal control and animal population control fees for cats.

DATE: 3/26/02 CONSENT CALENDAR YES ☒ NO ☐

☐ OUGHT TO PASS

☒ OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT

☐ INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

☐ REFER TO COMMITTEE FOR INTERIM STUDY
(Available only in second year of biennium.)

STATEMENT OF INTENT
(Include Committee Vote)

Any resident of the state that has adopted a dog or cat from an animal shelter as defined in RSA 437:2 is eligible to participate in the spat/neuter program . This bill increases the fee from $10.00 to $15.00 for eligible participants who are enrolled in various non-profit programs.

Vote 12-1.

Rep. Robert W. Brundige
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
cc: Committee Bill file

USE ANOTHER REPORT FOR MINORITY REPORT

CONSENT CALENDAR

Municipal and County Government

SB 406, (New Title) relative to animal control and animal population control fees for cats. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT**

Rep. Robert W. Brundige for Municipal and County Government: Any resident of the state that has adopted a dog or cat from an animal shelter as defined in RSA 437:2 is eligible to participate in the spat/neuter program . This bill increases the fee from $10.00 to $15.00 for eligible participants who are enrolled in various non-profit programs. **Vote 12-1.**

SB 406
Relative to Animal control

OJP/A 12 - 1

Any resident of the state who has adopted a dog or cat from an animal shelter as defined in RSA 437:2 is eligible to participate in the spay/neuter program. this bill increases the fee for participation from $25.00 to $30.00.

This bill alo increases the fee from $10.00 to $15.00 for eligible participants who are enrolled in various non-profit programs.

Robert N Bruno