

This is an excerpt of the Spay/Neuter language of Senate Bill 626. This is NOT Senate Bill 626 in its entirety; it is the sections pertaining to the Spay/Neuter Program ONLY.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2013**

**SESSION LAW 2013-377
SENATE BILL 626**

AN ACT TO RECODIFY AND AMEND THE EXISTING LAW ENACTED TO ASSIST OWNERS IN RECOVERING LOST PETS, RELIEVE OVERCROWDING AT ANIMAL SHELTERS, FACILITATE ADOPTIONS FROM ANIMAL SHELTERS, AND TO PROVIDE FOR IMPROVED ENFORCEMENT OF THAT LAW BY MAKING IT PART OF THE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT; AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP ON THE REIMBURSEMENT AMOUNT AVAILABLE FROM THE SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAM; AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS CONFINED IN MOTOR VEHICLES UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES THAT THREATEN THE ANIMALS' HEALTH.

SECTION 4. G.S. 19A-64 reads as rewritten:

"§ 19A-64. Distributions to counties and cities from Spay/Neuter Account.

(a) Reimbursable Costs. – Counties and cities eligible for distributions from the Spay/Neuter Account may receive reimbursement for the direct costs of a spay/neuter surgical procedure for a dog or cat owned by a low-income person as defined in G.S. 19A-63(b). Reimbursable costs shall include anesthesia, medication, and veterinary services. Counties and cities shall not be reimbursed for the administrative costs of providing reduced-cost spay/neuter services or capital expenditures for facilities and equipment associated with the provision of such services. The reimbursement amount for each surgical procedure for a female dog or cat shall be no more than one hundred fifty percent (150%) of the average reimbursement allowed for surgical procedures for female dogs and cats by the Spay/Neuter Program during the prior calendar year. The reimbursement amount for each surgical procedure for a male dog or cat shall be no more than one hundred fifty percent (150%) of the average reimbursement allowed for surgical procedures for male dogs and cats by the Spay/Neuter Program during the prior calendar year.

(b) Application. – A county or city eligible for reimbursement of spaying and neutering costs from the Spay/Neuter Account shall apply to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services by the last day of January, April, July, and October of each year to receive a distribution from the Account for that quarter. The application shall be submitted in the form required by the Department and shall include an itemized listing of the costs for which reimbursement is sought.

(c) Distribution. – The Department shall make payments from the Spay/Neuter Account to eligible counties and cities who have made timely application for reimbursement within 30

days of the closing date for receipt of applications for that quarter. In the event that total requests for reimbursement exceed the amounts available in the Spay/Neuter Account for distribution, the monies available will be distributed as follows:

- (1) Fifty percent (50%) of the monies available in the Spay/Neuter Account shall be reserved for reimbursement for eligible applicants within development tier one areas as defined in G.S. 143B-437.08. The remaining fifty percent (50%) of the funds shall be used to fund reimbursement requests from eligible applicants in development tier two and three areas as defined in G.S. 143B-437.08.
- (2) Among the eligible counties and cities in development tier one areas, reimbursement shall be made to each eligible county or city ~~pursuant to rules adopted by the Department~~ in the proportion that the rate of spays and neuters per one thousand persons in that city or county compares to the total rate of spays and neuters per one thousand persons within the total tier one area. Population data shall be obtained from the most recent decennial census.
- (3) Among the eligible counties and cities in development tier two and three areas, reimbursement shall be made to each eligible county or city ~~pursuant to rules adopted by the Department~~ in the proportion that the rate of spays and neuters per one thousand persons in that city or county compares to the total rate of spays and neuters per one thousand persons within the total tier two and three area. Population data shall be obtained from the most recent decennial census.
- (4) Should funds remain available from the fifty percent (50%) of the Spay/Neuter Account designated for development tier one areas after reimbursement of all claims by eligible applicants in those areas, the remaining funds shall be made available to reimburse eligible applicants in development tier two and three areas."

SECTION 5. G.S. 19A-66 reads as rewritten:

"§ 19A-66. Notification of available funding.

Prior to January 1 of each year, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall notify counties and cities that have, prior to that notification deadline, established eligibility for distribution of funds from the Spay/Neuter Account pursuant to G.S. 19A-63, of the following:

- (1) The amount of funding in the Spay/Neuter Account that the Department will have available for distribution to each county or city receiving notification to pay reimbursement requests submitted by the county or city during the calendar year following the notification deadline; and
- (2) The amount of additional funding, if any, the Department estimates, but does not guarantee, may be available to pay reimbursement requests submitted by the notified county or city to the Department during the calendar year following the notification deadline.
- (3) The maximum amount that may be reimbursed for each surgical procedure for a female dog or cat during the upcoming calendar year.
- (4) The maximum amount that may be reimbursed for each surgical procedure for a male dog or cat during the upcoming calendar year."

SECTION 7. Section 4 of this act becomes effective October 1, 2013. Section 5 of this act becomes effective January 1, 2014. The remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 22nd day of July, 2013.

s/ Tom Apodaca
Presiding Officer of the Senate

s/ Thom Tillis
Speaker of the House of Representatives

s/ Pat McCrory
Governor

Approved 5:09 p.m. this 29th day of July, 2013