
DIGEST

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HB 653 Reengrossed

2024 Regular Session

Ventrella

Abstract: Establishes the La. Commemorative Pet Stamp Program (program) and provides for funding.

Proposed law creates the program and provides for administration by the La. Pet Overpopulation Advisory Council (council).

Proposed law authorizes the council to promote the annual creation of commemorative pet stamps. Authorizes the council to regulate the program as it relates to the design, sale, and marketing of stamps and prints and the criteria for the art and artist for its annual contest. Further provides that commemorative pet stamps created pursuant to the program shall be sold for no less than \$15.

Proposed law further establishes a fund in the state treasury, to be known as the Commemorative Pet Stamp Fund (fund). Provides for deposit, investment, and use of monies in the fund. Further requires the state treasurer, on a quarterly basis, to provide a report to the Council on the balance in the fund.

Proposed law requires monies in the fund to be used by the council for the programs and purposes provided in proposed law. Authorizes the use of fund monies for grants to qualified entities. Defines "qualified entities" to mean any veterinarian licensed in La., veterinary hospital, or organization qualified as a federally tax-exempt organization. Further authorizes the council to use up to 15% of the revenues received annually for promotion, marketing, and administrative costs associated with the program.

Proposed law directs the La. State Law Institute to make technical changes with respect to designation of certain present law provisions.

(Adds R.S. 3:2481-2484)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Appropriations to the engrossed bill:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Consolidate provisions in proposed law regarding the establishment of the fund and

providing for the deposit, investment, and use of monies therein.

3. Delete provisions requiring: (1) the council to maintain a checking account at a La. licensed bank for monies withdrawn from the fund, (2) time limits for the treasurer to transfer monies from the fund into the checking account, and (3) annual audit of the financial records of the council by the legislative auditor's staff.
4. Direct the La. State Law Institute to make certain technical changes with respect to designation of specific present law provisions.