

By: Representative Brown

To: Agriculture;  
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1374

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 69-15-19, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO REVISE THE FUNDING OF THE ANIMAL CARE FUND TO INCLUDE QUALIFIED  
3 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS; TO AUTHORIZE THE MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF  
4 ANIMAL HEALTH TO USE A PORTION OF THE FUNDS FOR ANNUAL  
5 ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 69-15-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
8 amended as follows:

9 69-15-19. (1) As used in this section, the term "qualified  
10 nonprofit organization" means an IRS tax-exempt 501(3)(c) or  
11 similar nonprofit organization that has been approved by the  
12 Mississippi Board of Animal Health.

13 (2) There is created in the State Treasury a special fund to  
14 be known and designated as the "Animal Care Fund." There shall be  
15 deposited in the fund:

16 (a) The additional fees collected from the issuance of  
17 distinctive license tags under Section 27-19-56.18;

18 (b) Any gifts, grants, donations or matching money from  
19 federal, state or local governmental bodies and private persons,  
20 associations, groups or corporations making contributions to the  
21 fund; and

22 (c) Any other monies as the Legislature may appropriate  
23 or authorize to be deposited therein.

24 (3) The special fund created under subsection (1) of this  
25 section shall be administered by the Mississippi Board of Animal  
26 Health. Monies in the special fund shall be allocated and  
27 distributed by the Mississippi Board of Animal Health to and among  
28 the boards of supervisors of each of the counties \* \* \*, the

29 governing authorities of municipalities in the state and qualified  
30 nonprofit organizations. Monies allocated, distributed and  
31 received by the boards of supervisors, governing authorities and  
32 qualified nonprofit organizations may:

33 (a) \* \* \* Be expended for the operation and support of  
34 county or municipal agencies, boards or departments that provide  
35 food, shelter and care, and/or spaying and neutering of lost,  
36 abandoned or unwanted pets;

37 (b) \* \* \* Be expended for the creation, development or  
38 expansion of such agencies, boards or departments; or

39 (c) \* \* \* Be donated by the boards of supervisors and  
40 governing authorities to nonprofit groups, organizations and  
41 associations that operate similar programs. However, priority for  
42 expenditure of such monies shall be given to spaying and neutering  
43 programs. None of such monies may be expended for euthanasia.  
44 The Mississippi Board of Animal Health is authorized to use a  
45 portion of the fund, in an amount not to exceed Two Thousand  
46 Dollars (\$2,000.00) a year, to fund administrative expenses.

47 (4) The Mississippi Board of Animal Health shall adopt rules  
48 and regulations governing the proper administration of the Animal  
49 Care Fund, and establishing guidelines and criteria for the  
50 distribution and allocation of monies in the fund, including  
51 qualifications for those groups, organizations and associations  
52 qualified to accept monies or to which boards of supervisors and  
53 governing authorities may make donations.

54 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
55 and after July 1, 2006.