

By: Representative Brown

To: Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1528

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 69-15-19, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO ALLOW THE MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH TO DISTRIBUTE
3 MONIES IN THE SPECIAL FUND KNOWN AS THE "ANIMAL CARE FUND" TO
4 CERTAIN QUALIFIED NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS; TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD
5 TO RETAIN AND USE A PORTION OF THE FUND FOR ADMINISTRATIVE
6 EXPENSES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

10 69-15-19. (1) There is created in the State Treasury a
11 special fund to be known and designated as the "Animal Care Fund,"
12 hereinafter referred to as "fund." There shall be deposited in
13 the fund:

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

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

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

22 (2) The special fund created under subsection (1) of this
23 section shall be administered by the Mississippi Board of Animal
24 Health, hereinafter referred to as the "board." Monies in the
25 special fund shall be allocated and distributed by the * * *
26 board * * * to and among the boards of supervisors of each of the
27 counties * * *, the governing authorities of municipalities in the
28 state and qualified nonprofit organizations. For purposes of this
29 section, the term "qualified nonprofit organization" means either

30 an organization that is exempt from federal income taxation under
31 Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or an organization
32 that does not operate for profit and is approved to be a qualified
33 nonprofit organization by the board. Monies allocated,
34 distributed and received by the boards of supervisors, governing
35 authorities and qualified nonprofit organizations may:

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

40 (b) * * * Be expended for the creation, development or
41 expansion of such agencies, boards or departments; or

42 (c) * * * Be donated by the boards of supervisors and
43 governing authorities to nonprofit groups, organizations and
44 associations that operate similar programs. However, priority for
45 expenditure of such monies shall be given to spaying and neutering
46 programs. None of such monies may be expended for euthanasia.

47 (3) The * * * board * * * shall adopt rules and regulations
48 governing the proper administration of the * * * fund, and
49 establishing guidelines and criteria for the distribution and
50 allocation of monies in the fund, including qualifications for
51 those groups, organizations and associations qualified to accept
52 monies or to which boards of supervisors and governing authorities
53 may make donations. The board is authorized to use a portion of
54 the fund, in an amount not to exceed Two Thousand Dollars
55 (\$2,000.00) per fiscal year, to pay for the administrative
56 expenses of managing the fund.

57 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
58 and after July 1, 2007.