

SENATE, No. 3362

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 3, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator MICHAEL L. TESTA, JR.

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Domestic Violence Shelter Pet Grant Program to provide funds to house pets in shelters with their owners.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning domestic violence shelters, supplementing Title
2 30 of the Revised Statutes, and making an appropriation.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. As used in this act:

8 “Commissioner” means Commissioner of Human Services.

9 “Department” means Department of Human Services.

10 “Domestic violence” shall have the same meaning as defined in
11 section 3 of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-19).

12 “Domestic violence shelter” means any shelter approved for a
13 purchase of service contract and certified pursuant to standards and
14 procedures established by regulation of the Department of Human
15 Services pursuant to P.L.1979, c.337 (C.30:14-1 et seq.), that
16 confidentially provides food, shelter, safe refuge, medical care,
17 legal assistance, personal guidance, and other services to not more
18 than 15 persons who have been victims of domestic violence,
19 including any children of such victims, who temporarily require
20 shelter and assistance in order to protect their physical or
21 psychological welfare.

22 “Program” means the Domestic Violence Shelter Pet Grant
23 Program, as established by section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.)
24 (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

25 “Pet” means any domesticated animal normally maintained in or
26 near the household of the owner thereof, that was bought, bred,
27 raised, or otherwise acquired in accordance with local ordinances
28 and State and federal law.

29 “Victim of domestic violence” shall have the same meaning as
30 defined in section 3 of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-19).

31

32 2. a. There is established in the Department of Human
33 Services the Domestic Violence Shelter Pet Grant Program to
34 provide funds to domestic violence shelters to allow the pets of
35 victims of domestic violence to reside concurrently with their
36 owners within domestic violence shelters. The program shall award
37 grants to domestic violence shelters to defray the costs of
38 purchasing food, medication, toys, cat litter, leashes, and other
39 supplies necessary for the health and well-being of domesticated
40 animals, as well as for needed veterinary care during the residency
41 of a victim of domestic violence at a domestic violence shelter.

42 b. To qualify for a grant award under the program, a domestic
43 violence shelter shall submit an application to the Commissioner of
44 Human Services, in accordance with application procedures and
45 requirements prescribed by the commissioner.

46 c. When awarding grants, the commissioner shall give
47 preference based on the number of pets housed at each qualifying
48 domestic violence shelter.

S3362 TESTA

1 d. Grants shall be awarded by the Commissioner of Human
2 Services in amounts determined by the commissioner, not to exceed
3 \$50,000 to each qualifying shelter.

4 e. Notwithstanding any provision of P.L.1968, c.410 32
5 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), or any other law to the contrary, the
6 commissioner may adopt, immediately upon filing with the Office
7 of Administrative Law and no later than the 90th day after the
8 effective date of this act, such rules and regulations as the
9 commissioner deems necessary to implement the provisions of this
10 act, which regulations shall be effective for a period not to exceed
11 12 months. The regulations shall, at a minimum, set forth the
12 requirements for application submissions, the criteria for
13 application selections, and the eligible uses of grant funds. The
14 regulations shall thereafter be amended, adopted, or readopted by
15 the commissioner in accordance with the provisions of P.L.1968,
16 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.).

17

18 3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
19 Department of Human Services the sum of \$1,000,000 to effectuate
20 the purposes of section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
21 before the Legislature as this bill).

22

23 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

24

25 STATEMENT

26

27 This bill establishes the Domestic Violence Shelter Pet Grant
28 Program to provide funds to house pets in domestic violence
29 shelters with their owners.

30 Specifically, the bill establishes the program in the Department
31 of Human Services to provide funds to domestic violence shelters to
32 allow the pets of victims of domestic violence to reside
33 concurrently with their owners within domestic violence shelters.

34 Grants are to be awarded to domestic violence shelters to defray
35 the costs of purchasing food, medication, toys, cat litter, leashes,
36 and other supplies necessary for the health and well-being of
37 domesticated animals, as well as for needed veterinary care during
38 the residency of a victim of domestic violence at a domestic
39 violence shelter.

40 To qualify for a grant award under the program, a domestic
41 violence shelter is required to submit an application to the
42 Commissioner of Human Services (commissioner), in accordance
43 with application procedures and requirements prescribed by the
44 commissioner. When awarding grants, preference is to be given
45 based on the number of pets housed at a shelter. Grants shall be
46 awarded by the Commissioner in amounts determined by the
47 commissioner, not to exceed \$50,000 to each qualifying shelter.

48 Pursuant to this bill, the sum of \$1,000,000 is allocated from the
49 General Fund.