

HB 25-1137: ADOPT A SHELTER PET ACCOUNT COMMUNITY CATS

Prime Sponsors:

Rep. Lindsay; Velasco Sen. Winter F.

Bill Outcome: Signed into Law **Drafting number:** LLS 25-0411

Fiscal note status: The final fiscal note reflects the enacted bill.

Fiscal Analyst:

Alexa Kelly, 303-866-3469 alexa.kelly@coleg.gov

Version: Final Fiscal Note **Date:** May 21, 2025

Summary Information

Overview. The bill establishes the Trap-Neuter-Return Grant Program administered by the Pet Overpopulation Authority.

Types of impacts. The bill is projected to affect the following areas on an ongoing basis:

Minimal State Workload

• Statutory Public Entity

Appropriations. No appropriation is required.

Table 1 State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
State Expenditures	\$0	\$0
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE

Summary of Legislation

The bill establishes the Trap-Neuter-Return Grant Program administered by the Pet Overpopulation Authority (authority). The new grant program is funded using existing revenue to the Adopt a Shelter Pet Account, which receives donations from the sale of the "Adopt a Shelter Pet" special license plate and an income tax check off. Grants may be provided to an animal welfare facility, which includes a pet animal facility, pet animal rescue, or spay and neuter organization.

The bill specifies that at least ten percent of grant funding issued by the authority must be for the new grant program. Money awarded to an eligible facility may be used for:

- trapping, sterilizing, vaccinating, and ear-tipping a community cat;
- veterinary care for community cats;
- training for community cat caretakers and animal control personnel; and
- veterinary materials in spay and neuter clinics and mobile clinic support.

The bill changes existing requirements for all grants funded by the Pet Overpopulation Fund to require at least 70 percent of all grants funded by the Pet Overpopulation Fund to go to facilities that are located in a county with a population under 200,000. The authority must also consider awarding at least 50 percent of grant funds to facilities located in a county with a population under 50,000.

Additionally, the bill changes some of the requirements for the Board of Directors for the Pet Overpopulation Authority and requires the board to annually publish information about grant recipients.

State Expenditures

The bill minimally increases workload in the Department of Agriculture to make additional appointments to the Colorado Pet Overpopulation Authority's board of directors.

Statutory Public Entity

The Pet Overpopulation Authority is a statutory public entity and not subject to administrative direction by any state agency. The bill directs the Pet Overpopulation Authority to issue grants for a new purpose, within its existing revenue to the Adopt a Shelter Pet Account in the Pet Overpopulation Fund. This will reduce grants available for existing spay and neuter programs and other pet overpopulation initiatives, and increase funding on Trap-Neuter-Release programs targeting community cats. The exact shift in grants will depend on how many entities apply for funding, the total amount of grants issued, and decisions by the authority board.

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Effective Date

The bill was signed by the Governor on April 17, 2025, and takes effect on August 6, 2025, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Agriculture	Revenue
Information Technology	Treasury