

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Agriculture Committee

BILL: CS/SB 1994

INTRODUCER: Agriculture Committee and Senator Atwater

SUBJECT: Gertrude Maxwell Save a Pet Act

DATE: March 19, 2008 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Robinson	Poole	AG	Fav/CS
2.			GO	
3.			GA	
4.				
5.				
6.				

Please see Section VIII. for Additional Information:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| A. COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE..... | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Statement of Substantial Changes |
| B. AMENDMENTS..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | Technical amendments were recommended |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Amendments were recommended |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Significant amendments were recommended |

I. Summary:

This committee substitute, known as the “Gertrude Maxwell Save a Pet Act,” creates the Gertrude Maxwell Save a Pet Direct-Support Organization within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. This direct-support organization (DSO) is created for the purposes of providing grants to animal shelters for spaying and neutering, for sheltering and providing services during times of emergencies, and for developing and disseminating educational materials concerning the care of pets. The DSO will be governed by a board of directors made up of eight members.

This bill creates section 570.97 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Presently, numerous DSOs exist within the Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (department). These are not-for-profit organizations that are monitored by the department. There are also numerous national and local humane and animal service organizations this bill would complement that are currently working for the same goals. The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the Humane Society, along with other organizations, work to operate

spay and neuter clinics and animal shelters. The State of Florida currently has the Florida Animal Friend license plate, which was created to provide funding for animal spaying and neutering and other animal control efforts.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1. Provides that this act may be cited as the “Gertrude Maxwell Save a Pet Act.”

Section 2. (1) Creates section 570.97, F.S., to establish the Gertrude Maxwell Save a Pet Direct-Support Organization within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, which will be governed by this section and ss. 570.902 and 570.903.

(2) This DSO is created for the purposes of providing grants to animal shelters for spaying and neutering, for sheltering and providing services during times of emergencies, and for developing and disseminating educational materials concerning the care of pets. The DSO will not participate, endorse or give financial assistance for political activities on the national, state or local level.

(3) The DSO will be governed by a board of directors made up of eight members. This will include the Commissioner of Agriculture or his or her designee. The Commissioner of Agriculture will choose one member from each of the following organizations who shall be appointed to 4-year terms:

- (a) The Florida Veterinary Medical Association;
- (b) The Cat Fancier Association;
- (c) The Florida Association of Kennel Clubs;
- (d) A human society organization;
- (e) The Florida Animal Control Association;
- (f) The National Rifle Association;
- (g) One citizen member not otherwise associated with any of the named organizations.

(4) The Commissioner of Agriculture may appoint up to three nonvoting honorary members. Nominees must be individuals, companies or organizations that have shown a commitment to the wellbeing of animals. Gertrude Maxwell, or her designee, shall be appointed as the first honorary member of the DSO. Honorary board members are appointed to 1-year terms and can be appointed a maximum of two consecutive terms.

Section 3. Provides that this act shall take effect upon becoming law.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Indeterminate

C. Government Sector Impact:

Expenditures	(FY 07-08) 1 FTE	(FY 08-09) 1 FTE	(FY 09-10) 1 FTE
Total Recurring	\$20,734	\$61,642	\$61,642
Total Non-Recurring	\$4,388		
Total Recurring/ Non-Recurring	\$25,122	\$61,642	\$61,642

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

The Committee Substitute differs from the bill in that the Committee Substitute names the organizations that will have representatives on the direct-support organization’s board of directors, declares that the direct-support organization will not play a political role and creates rules for appointing honorary members to the board of directors.

B. Amendments:

None.