



## NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact: Brandi Klingerman  
Phone: (317) 232-9693  
Email: brandi.klingerman@iga.in.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Bill to control stray cat population signed into law**

STATEHOUSE - House Enrolled Act (HEA) 1199, authored by State Representative Don Lehe (R-Brookston), has been ceremoniously signed into law by Governor Mike Pence. HEA 1199 supports the work of spay and neuter programs by permitting them to catch, sterilize and release feral cats into mobile home communities, where they were previously prohibited from operating.

“The concern was brought forward that there was an issue with spay and neuter programs not being able to conduct their work within mobile home communities because house pets and other animals are not allowed to run at large within their limits,” said Rep. Lehe. “This legislation combats that problem, allowing these programs to catch, neuter and release stray cats into the habitat where they were caught.”

Mobile home communities tend to have a higher stray cat population than other types of communities within Indiana. The purpose of catch and release or TNR (trap, neuter, release) groups like Spay Neuter Services of Indiana is to humanely control feral cat populations.

“I am glad that this legislation will provide a simple, humane solution to controlling the stray cat population in mobile home communities,” said Rep. Lehe.

HEA 1199 goes into effect July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014.

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*State Rep. Don Lehe serves as Chairman of the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee. He also serves on the Environmental Affairs Committee and the Public Health Committee. Rep. Lehe represents portions of White, Cass, Carroll, Clinton and Tippecanoe Counties.*

***NOTE TO THE EDITOR: Attached and pictured below is a picture of Rep. Lehe with Governor Pence and other members of the General Assembly at the bill signing of HEA 1199.***