
HOUSE BILL 2804

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Representatives Chandler and Zellinsky

Read first time 01/20/98. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Ecology.

1 AN ACT Relating to the ownership of veterinary medical facilities
2 by animal care and control agencies and nonprofit humane societies;
3 amending RCW 18.92.010; and adding a new section to chapter 16.52 RCW.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 16.52 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 Animal care and control agencies as defined in RCW 16.52.011 and
8 nonprofit humane societies, that have qualified under 501(c)(3) of the
9 internal revenue code, and that employ veterinarians may own and
10 operate veterinary medical facilities. Veterinarians employed at these
11 facilities must be licensed under chapter 18.92 RCW. No officer,
12 director, supervisor, or any other individual associated with an animal
13 care and control agency or nonprofit humane society owning and
14 operating a veterinary medical facility may impose any terms or
15 conditions of employment or attempt to direct an employed veterinarian
16 in any way that interferes with the free exercise of the veterinarian's
17 professional judgment or infringes upon the utilization of his or her
18 professional skills.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.92.010 and 1995 c 317 s 1 are each amended to read
2 s follows:

3 Any person shall be regarded as practicing veterinary medicine,
4 surgery and dentistry within the meaning of this chapter who shall,
5 within this state, (1) by advertisement, or by any notice, sign, or
6 other indication, or by a statement written, printed or oral, in public
7 or private, made, done, or procured by himself or herself, or any
8 other, at his or her request, for him or her, represent, claim,
9 announce, make known or pretend his or her ability or willingness to
10 diagnose or prognose or treat diseases, deformities, defects, wounds,
11 or injuries of animals; (2) or who shall so advertise, make known,
12 represent or claim his or her ability and willingness to prescribe or
13 administer any drug, medicine, treatment, method or practice, or to
14 perform any operation, manipulation, or apply any apparatus or
15 appliance for cure, amelioration, correction or reduction or
16 modification of any animal disease, deformity, defect, wound or injury,
17 for hire, fee, compensation, or reward, promised, offered, expected,
18 received, or accepted directly or indirectly; (3) or who shall within
19 this state diagnose or prognose any animal diseases, deformities,
20 defects, wounds or injuries, for hire, fee, reward, or compensation
21 promised, offered, expected, received, or accepted directly or
22 indirectly; (4) or who shall within this state prescribe or administer
23 any drug, medicine, treatment, method or practice, or perform any
24 operation, or manipulation, or apply any apparatus or appliance for the
25 cure, amelioration, alleviation, correction, or modification of any
26 animal disease, deformity, defect, wound, or injury, for hire, fee,
27 compensation, or reward, promised, offered, expected, received or
28 accepted directly or indirectly; (5) or who performs any manual
29 procedure for the diagnosis of pregnancy, sterility, or infertility
30 upon livestock; (6) or who implants any electronic device for the
31 purpose of establishing or maintaining positive identification of
32 animals.

33 Except as set forth under section 1 of this act, the opening of an
34 office or place of business for the practice of veterinary medicine,
35 the use of a sign, card, device or advertisement as a practitioner of
36 veterinary medicine or as a person skilled in such practice shall be

1 prima facie evidence of engaging in the practice of veterinary
2 medicine, surgery and dentistry.

--- END ---