CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6037

Chapter 157, Laws of 2002

57th Legislature
2002 Regular Session

VETERINARY SERVICES--ANIMAL CONTROL AGENCIES--HUMANE SOCIETIES

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/1/03

Passed by the Senate March 11, 2002
YEAS 43   NAYS 0

BRAD OWEN
President of the Senate

Passed by the House March 5, 2002
YEAS 95   NAYS 1

FRANK CHOPP
Speaker of the House of Representatives

I, Tony M. Cook, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6037 as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

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I, Tony M. Cook, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6037 as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

FRANK CHOPP
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Approved March 27, 2002

GARY LOCKE
Governor of the State of Washington

Secretary of State of State of Washington

March 27, 2002 - 8:37 a.m.
AN ACT Relating to authorizing animal care and control agencies and nonprofit humane societies to provide limited veterinarian services; adding new sections to chapter 18.92 RCW; and providing an effective date.

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

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. A new section is added to chapter 18.92 RCW to read as follows:

The legislature recognizes that low-income households may not receive needed veterinary services for household pets. It is the intent of the legislature to allow qualified animal control agencies and humane societies to provide limited veterinary services to low-income members of our communities. It is not the intent of the legislature to allow these agencies to provide veterinary services to the public at large.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 18.92 RCW to read as follows:

(1)(a) Subject to the limitations in this section, animal care and control agencies as defined in RCW 16.52.011 and nonprofit humane
societies, that have qualified under section 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue code may provide limited veterinary services to animals owned by qualified low-income households. The veterinary services provided shall be limited to electronic identification, surgical sterilization, and vaccinations. A veterinarian or veterinary technician acting within his or her scope of practice must perform the limited veterinary services. For purposes of this section, "low-income household" means the same as in RCW 43.185A.010.

(b) Animal control agencies and nonprofit humane societies, receiving animals on an emergency basis, may provide emergency care, subject to a local ordinance that defines an emergency situation and establishes temporary time limits.

(c) Any local ordinance addressing the needs under this section that was approved by the voters and is in effect on the effective date of this act remains in effect.

(2) Veterinarians and veterinary technicians employed at these facilities must be licensed under this chapter. No officer, director, supervisor, or any other individual associated with an animal care or control agency or nonprofit humane society owning and operating a veterinary medical facility may impose any terms or conditions of employment or direct or attempt to direct an employed veterinarian in any way that interferes with the free exercise of the veterinarian’s professional judgment or infringes upon the utilization of his or her professional skills.

(3) Veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and animal control agencies and humane societies acting under this section shall, for purposes of providing the limited veterinary services, meet the requirements established under this chapter and are subject to the rules adopted by the veterinary board of governors in the same fashion as any licensed veterinarian or veterinary medical facility in the state.

(4) The Washington state veterinary board of governors shall adopt rules to:

(a) Establish registration and registration renewal requirements;

(b) Govern the purchase and use of drugs for the limited veterinary services authorized under this section; and

(c) Ensure that agencies and societies are in compliance with this section.
(5) The limited veterinary medical service authority granted by registration under this section may be denied, suspended, revoked, or conditioned by a determination of the board of governors for any act of noncompliance with this chapter. The uniform disciplinary act, chapter 18.130 RCW, governs unregistered operation, the issuance and denial of registrations, and the discipline of registrants under this section.

(6) No animal control agency or humane society may operate under this chapter without registering with the department. An application for registration shall be made upon forms provided by the department and shall include the information the department reasonably requires, as provided by RCW 43.70.280. The department shall establish registration and renewal fees as provided by RCW 43.70.250. A registration fee shall accompany each application for registration or renewal.

**NEW SECTION. Sec. 3.** This act takes effect July 1, 2003.
Passed the Senate March 11, 2002.
Passed the House March 5, 2002.
Approved by the Governor March 27, 2002.
Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 27, 2002.