
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5657

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Commerce, Trade, Housing & Financial Institutions (originally sponsored by Senators Kohl-Welles, Jacobsen and Fairley)

Read first time 03/03/99.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing limited veterinary medical services by
2 animal care and control agencies and nonprofit humane societies; adding
3 new sections to chapter 18.92 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

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

7 The legislature finds that overpopulation of pets is a continuing
8 problem in this state. The legislature further finds that providing
9 low-income pet owners enhanced access to sterilization, vaccination,
10 and electronic identification device implantation would help solve this
11 problem. The legislature further finds that the integrity of the
12 veterinary licensing program must be maintained to ensure the delivery
13 of safe, high quality veterinary medical services.

14 It is the intent of this act to authorize appropriate agencies to
15 offer low-income pet owners certain limited veterinary medical services
16 performed by licensed providers, while maintaining current veterinary
17 licensure requirements.

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

3 (1) It is not a violation of this chapter for an animal care and
4 control agency as defined in RCW 16.52.011, or a bona fide nonprofit
5 humane society that has obtained certification under section 501(c)(3)
6 of the internal revenue code, to provide the following procedures on
7 animals owned by others, as further limited by this section:

8 (a) Surgical and nonsurgical sterilization;

9 (b) Inoculation against disease; and

10 (c) Implanting of an electronic device for identifying animals.

11 (2) To receive services authorized by this section, an animal owner
12 must qualify as a low-income household as defined by RCW 43.185A.010.

13 (3) Services and procedures authorized by this section must be
14 performed by a veterinarian licensed under this chapter, or an animal
15 technician or veterinary medication clerk acting under the direction
16 and supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

17 (4) It is a violation of this chapter for an animal care and
18 control agency as defined in RCW 16.52.011, or a bona fide nonprofit
19 humane society that has obtained certification under section 501(c)(3)
20 of the internal revenue code, to provide procedures on animals owned by
21 others, other than those procedures set forth in this section.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The department of health shall adopt rules
23 necessary for the implementation of this act, including the
24 qualification of a humane society to provide services under this act,
25 and the method for determining the income level of owners of animals
26 receiving services under this act.

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