
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5004

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senate Health & Long Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Cleveland, Rivers, Conway, Fortunato, Frockt, Palumbo, Rolfes, Saldaña, and Kuderer)

1 AN ACT Relating to allowing animal care and control agencies and
2 nonprofit humane societies to provide additional veterinary services
3 to low-income households; and amending RCW 18.92.250 and 18.92.260.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.92.250 and 2002 c 157 s 1 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

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

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.92.260 and 2002 c 157 s 2 are each amended to
15 read as follows:

16 (1)(a) Subject to the limitations in this section, animal care
17 and control agencies as defined in RCW 16.52.011 and nonprofit humane
18 societies, that have qualified under section 501(c)(3) of the
19 internal revenue code may provide ((limited)) veterinary services to
20 animals owned by qualified low-income households. ((The veterinary

1 ~~services provided shall be limited to electronic identification,~~
2 ~~surgical sterilization, and vaccinations.))~~ A veterinarian or
3 veterinary technician acting within his or her scope of practice must
4 perform the ~~((limited))~~ veterinary services. For purposes of this
5 section, "low-income household" means the same as in RCW 43.185A.010.

6 (b) Animal control agencies and nonprofit humane societies,
7 receiving any animals on an emergency basis, may provide emergency
8 care ~~((, subject to a local ordinance that defines an emergency
9 situation and establishes temporary time limits))~~ where there is an
10 unexpected, serious occurrence or situation that urgently requires
11 prompt action in order to prevent an animal's death or permanent
12 injury of the animal.

13 (c) Animal control agencies and nonprofit humane societies may
14 provide veterinary care for sick animals up to thirty days
15 postadoption.

16 (d) Any local ordinance addressing the needs under this section
17 that was approved by the voters and is in effect on July 1, 2003,
18 remains in effect.

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

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

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

38 (a) Establish registration and registration renewal requirements;

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

1 (c) Establish annual reporting requirements that demonstrate the
2 animal care and control facilities and nonprofit humane societies are
3 servicing only low-income households as defined in RCW 43.185A.010; and

4 (d) Ensure that agencies and societies are in compliance with
5 this section.

6 (5) The ((~~limited~~)) veterinary medical service authority granted
7 by registration under this section may be denied, suspended, revoked,
8 or conditioned by a determination of the board of governors for any
9 act of noncompliance with this chapter. The uniform disciplinary act,
10 chapter 18.130 RCW, governs unregistered operation, the issuance and
11 denial of registrations, and the discipline of registrants under this
12 section.

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

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