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**SENATE BILL 5657**

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**State of Washington**

**56th Legislature**

**1999 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Kohl-Welles, Jacobsen and Fairley

Read first time 02/01/1999. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Rural Economic Development.

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.

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