
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6037

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Agriculture & International Trade (originally sponsored by Senators Prentice, Kohl-Welles and Parlette)

READ FIRST TIME 03/05/01.

1 AN ACT Relating to authorizing animal care and control agencies and
2 nonprofit humane societies to provide limited veterinarian services;
3 and adding new sections to chapter 18.92 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 18.92 RCW
6 to 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 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 18.92 RCW
15 to read as follows:

16 (1)(a) Subject to the limitations in this section, animal care and
17 control agencies as defined in RCW 16.52.011 and nonprofit humane
18 societies, that have qualified under section 501(c)(3) of the internal

1 revenue code may provide limited veterinary services to animals owned
2 by qualified low-income households. The veterinary services provided
3 shall be limited to electronic identification, surgical sterilization,
4 and vaccinations. For purposes of this section, "low-income household"
5 means the same as in RCW 43.185A.010.

6 (b) Animal control agencies and nonprofit humane societies,
7 receiving animals on an emergency basis, may provide emergency care,
8 subject to a local ordinance that defines an emergency situation and
9 establishes temporary time limits. Any local ordinance addressing the
10 needs under this subsection that was approved by the voters and is in
11 effect on the effective date of this act remains in effect.

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

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

26 (4) The Washington state veterinary board of governors shall adopt
27 rules to ensure that agencies and societies are in compliance with this
28 section. The limited veterinary medical service authority granted by
29 this section may be suspended, revoked, or conditioned by a
30 determination of the board of governors for any act of noncompliance
31 with this section.

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