
SENATE BILL 6037

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senators Prentice, Kohl-Welles and Parlette

Read first time 02/14/2001. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & International Trade.

1 AN ACT Relating to authorizing animal care and control agencies and
2 nonprofit humane societies to provide limited veterinarian services;
3 and adding a new section 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 (1)(a) Animal care and control agencies as defined in RCW 16.52.011
8 and nonprofit humane societies, that have qualified under section
9 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue code and that employ licensed
10 veterinarians, may own and operate veterinary medical facilities for
11 the purpose of providing veterinary medical services for those animals
12 in their custody, or in the custody of another animal control or
13 nonprofit humane organization qualified under section 501(c)(3) of the
14 internal revenue code, subject to (b) of this subsection.

15 (b)(i) Veterinary medical service for the purpose of electronic
16 identification, surgical sterilization, and vaccination may be provided
17 for animals owned by low-income households. For purposes of this
18 section, "low-income household" means the same as in RCW 43.185A.010.

1 (ii) Veterinary medical service on an emergency basis may be
2 provided for the benefit of anyone on a temporary basis, subject to a
3 local ordinance that defines an emergency situation and establishes
4 temporary time limits. Any local ordinance addressing the needs under
5 this subsection (1)(b) that was approved by the voters and is in effect
6 on the effective date of this act remains in effect.

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

15 (3)(a) A veterinarian and medical facility operating under this
16 section shall meet the requirements established under this chapter and
17 are subject to the rules adopted by the veterinary board of governors
18 in the same fashion as any licensed veterinarian or veterinary medical
19 facility in the state.

20 (b) A veterinarian and medical facility operating under this
21 section are subject to the same rules applicable to any other
22 veterinary medical facility or veterinarian licensed in Washington
23 state, as those rules pertain to advertising.

24 (4) The Washington state veterinary board of governors shall adopt
25 rules setting forth the frequency and degree of access to records
26 necessary to ensure that agencies and societies, under subsection (1)
27 of this section, are in compliance with this section. Any agency or
28 society in noncompliance may be limited in practice by order of the
29 director of the department of health.

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