
SENATE BILL 5004

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senators Cleveland, Rivers, Conway, Fortunato, Frockt, Palumbo, Rolfes, Saldaña, and Kuderer

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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 18.92.260.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.92.260 and 2002 c 157 s 2 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1)(a) Subject to the limitations in this section, animal care
8 and control agencies as defined in RCW 16.52.011 and nonprofit humane
9 societies, that have qualified under section 501(c)(3) of the
10 internal revenue code may provide (~~limited~~) veterinary services to
11 animals owned by qualified low-income households. (~~The veterinary
12 services provided shall be limited to electronic identification,
13 surgical sterilization, and vaccinations.~~) A veterinarian or
14 veterinary technician acting within his or her scope of practice must
15 perform the (~~limited~~) veterinary services. For purposes of this
16 section, "low-income household" means the same as in RCW 43.185A.010.

17 (b) Animal control agencies and nonprofit humane societies,
18 receiving any animals on an emergency basis, may provide emergency
19 care(~~, subject to a local ordinance that defines an emergency
20 situation and establishes temporary time limits~~) where there is an
21 unexpected, serious occurrence or situation that urgently requires

1 prompt action in order to prevent an animal's death or permanent
2 injury of the animal.

3 (c) Animal control agencies and nonprofit humane societies may
4 provide veterinary care for sick animals up to thirty days
5 postadoption.

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

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

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

25 (4) The Washington state veterinary board of governors shall
26 adopt rules to:

27 (a) Establish registration and registration renewal requirements;

28 (b) ~~((Govern the purchase and use of drugs for the limited~~
29 ~~veterinary services authorized under this section))~~ Establish annual
30 reporting requirements that demonstrate the animal care and control
31 facilities and nonprofit humane societies are serving only low-income
32 households as defined in RCW 43.185A.010; and

33 (c) Ensure that agencies and societies are in compliance with
34 this section.

35 (5) The ((limited)) veterinary medical service authority granted
36 by registration under this section may be denied, suspended, revoked,
37 or conditioned by a determination of the board of governors for any
38 act of noncompliance with this chapter. The uniform disciplinary act,
39 chapter 18.130 RCW, governs unregistered operation, the issuance and

1 denial of registrations, and the discipline of registrants under this
2 section.

3 (6) No animal control agency or humane society may operate under
4 this chapter without registering with the department. An application
5 for registration shall be made upon forms provided by the department
6 and shall include the information the department reasonably requires,
7 as provided by RCW 43.70.280. The department shall establish
8 registration and renewal fees as provided by RCW 43.70.250. A
9 registration fee shall accompany each application for registration or
10 renewal.

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