

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

FILED SENATE
Apr 25, 2016
S.B 730
PRINCIPAL CLERK

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SENATE BILL DRS15303-MHa-179 (04/15)

Short Title: Spay and Neuter. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Smith (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO INCREASE ACCESS TO SPAY AND NEUTER SERVICES FOR LOW-INCOME
3 NORTH CAROLINIANS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 SECTION 1. G.S. 19A-63 reads as rewritten:

6 "§ 19A-63. Eligibility for distributions from Spay/Neuter Account; Definitions.

7 ...

8 (b) The following definitions apply in this Article:

9 (1) Local veterinarian. – A veterinarian licensed by the North Carolina Veterinary
10 Medical Board under Article 11 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes and
11 practicing within the county where the services are provided. If no licensed
12 veterinarian practices within that county, then a local veterinarian is a licensed
13 veterinarian practicing in a county adjacent to the county where the services are
14 provided. For purposes of this definition, "practicing" means engaging in the
15 practice of veterinary medicine, as defined in Article 11 of Chapter 90 of the
16 General Statutes.

17 (2) Low-income person. – An individual who qualifies for one or more of the
18 programs of public assistance administered by the Department of Health and
19 Human Services pursuant to Chapter 108A of the General Statutes or whose
20 annual household income is lower than ~~one hundred percent (100%)~~three
21 hundred percent (300%) of the federal poverty level guidelines published by the
22 United States Department of Health and Human Services.

23 (c) Each county shall make rules or publish guidelines that designate what proof a
24 low-income person must submit to establish that the person has an annual household income lower
25 than ~~one hundred percent (100%)~~three hundred percent (300%) of the federal poverty level
26 guidelines published by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

27 (d) Each county shall provide the opportunity to participate in the program created by this
28 Article to all local veterinarians. Proof of the provision of this opportunity shall be included in the
29 first reimbursement request of each calendar year."

30 SECTION 2. G.S. 19A-64(c) reads as rewritten:

31 "(c) Distribution. – The Department shall make payments from the Spay/Neuter Account to
32 eligible counties and cities who have made timely application for reimbursement within 30 days of
33 the closing date for receipt of applications for that quarter. In the event that total requests for
34 reimbursement exceed the amounts available in the Spay/neuter Account for distribution, the
35 monies available will be distributed as follows:



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- 1 (1) Fifty percent (50%) of the monies available in the Spay/Neuter Account shall
2 be reserved for reimbursement for eligible applicants within development tier
3 one areas as defined in G.S. 143B-437.08. The remaining fifty percent (50%) of
4 the funds shall be used to fund reimbursement requests from eligible applicants
5 in development tier two and three areas as defined in G.S. 143B-437.08.
- 6 (2) Among the eligible counties and cities in development tier one areas,
7 reimbursement shall be made to each eligible county or city in the proportion
8 that the ~~rate-total number of spays and neuters per one thousand persons~~eligible
9 spay and neuter procedures in that city or county compares to the ~~total rate of~~
10 ~~spays and neuters per one thousand persons~~number of eligible reimbursement
11 requests submitted from all cities and counties within the total tier one area.
12 ~~Population data shall be obtained from the most recent decennial census.~~
- 13 (3) Among the eligible counties and cities in development tier two and three areas,
14 reimbursement shall be made to each eligible county or city in the proportion
15 that the ~~rate-total number of spays and neuters per one thousand persons~~eligible
16 spay and neuter procedures in that city or county compares to the ~~total rate of~~
17 ~~spays and neuters per one thousand persons~~number of eligible reimbursement
18 requests submitted from all cities and counties within the total tier two and
19 three area. ~~Population data shall be obtained from the most recent decennial~~
20 ~~census.~~
- 21 (4) Should funds remain available from the fifty percent (50%) of the Spay/Neuter
22 Account designated for development tier one areas after reimbursement of all
23 claims by eligible applicants in those areas, the remaining funds shall be made
24 available to reimburse eligible applicants in development tier two and three
25 areas."

26 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2016.