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SENATE BILL DRS45474-MHa-184 (04/26)

Short Title: Spay and Neuter. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators McKissick and Smith (Primary Sponsors).

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 (a) A county or city is eligible for reimbursement from the Spay/Neuter Account if it
8 meets the following condition:

9 (1) The county or city offers one or more of the following programs to low-income
10 persons on a year-round basis for the purpose of reducing the cost of spaying
11 and neutering procedures for dogs and cats:

- 12 a. A spay/neuter clinic operated by the county or city.
13 b. A spay/neuter clinic operated by a non-profit organization under
14 contract or other arrangement with the county or ~~city, provided that the~~
15 ~~non-profit organization contracts with a local veterinarian to perform the~~
16 ~~spay/neuter procedures.~~city.
17 c. A contract or contracts with one or more veterinarians, whether or not
18 located within the county, to provide reduced-cost spaying and
19 neutering procedures.
20 d. Subvention of the spaying and neutering costs incurred by low-income
21 pet owners through the use of vouchers or other procedure that provides
22 a discount of the cost of the spaying or neutering procedure fixed by a
23 participating ~~veterinarian.~~veterinarian or other provider.
24 e. Subvention of the spaying and neutering costs incurred by persons who
25 adopt a pet from an animal shelter operated by or under contract with
26 the county or city.

27 (2) Reserved for future codification purposes.

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

29 (1) Local veterinarian. – A veterinarian licensed by the North Carolina Veterinary
30 Medical Board under Article 11 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes and
31 practicing within the county where the services are provided. If no licensed
32 veterinarian practices within that county, then a local veterinarian is a licensed
33 veterinarian practicing in a county adjacent to the county where the services are
34 provided. For purposes of this definition, "practicing" means engaging in the
35 practice of veterinary medicine, as defined in Article 11 of Chapter 90 of the
36 General Statutes.



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

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

11 (d) Each county shall provide notice of the opportunity to participate in the program
12 created by this Article through electronic or other means to all local veterinarians. ~~veterinarians~~
13 providing services for small animals to the public. Proof of the ~~provision~~ notice of this opportunity
14 shall be included in the first reimbursement request of each calendar year."

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

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

21 (1) Fifty percent (50%) of the monies available in the Spay/Neuter Account shall
22 be reserved for reimbursement for eligible applicants within development tier
23 one areas as defined in G.S. 143B-437.08. The remaining fifty percent (50%) of
24 the funds shall be used to fund reimbursement requests from eligible applicants
25 in development tier two and three areas as defined in G.S. 143B-437.08.

26 (2) Among the eligible counties and cities in development tier one areas,
27 reimbursement shall be made to each eligible county or city in the proportion
28 that the ~~rate~~ total number of spays and neuters per one thousand persons eligible
29 spay and neuter procedures in that city or county compares to the ~~total rate of~~
30 ~~spays and neuters per one thousand persons~~ number of eligible reimbursement
31 requests submitted from all cities and counties within the total tier one area.
32 ~~Population data shall be obtained from the most recent decennial census.~~

33 (3) Among the eligible counties and cities in development tier two and three areas,
34 reimbursement shall be made to each eligible county or city in the proportion
35 that the ~~rate~~ total number of spays and neuters per one thousand persons eligible
36 spay and neuter procedures in that city or county compares to the ~~total rate of~~
37 ~~spays and neuters per one thousand persons~~ number of eligible reimbursement
38 requests submitted from all cities and counties within the total tier two and
39 three area. ~~Population data shall be obtained from the most recent decennial~~
40 ~~census.~~

41 (4) Should funds remain available from the fifty percent (50%) of the Spay/Neuter
42 Account designated for development tier one areas after reimbursement of all
43 claims by eligible applicants in those areas, the remaining funds shall be made
44 available to reimburse eligible applicants in development tier two and three
45 areas."

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