

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
79R2282 MSE-D

S.B. 248
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Health and Human Services
3/12/2005
As Filed

AUTHOR'S/SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

Currently, releasing agencies can only use surgical methods to sterilize animals in shelters; however, veterinarians in private practice can use both surgical and nonsurgical methods to sterilize animals. Allowing releasing agencies to use non-surgical sterilization could help increase the number of sterilizations conducted by releasing agencies and result in fewer animals being euthanized each year in Texas. As proposed, S.B. 248 allows a releasing agency's veterinarian to determine whether to use surgical or non-surgical sterilization methods, as veterinarians in private practice are able to do.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 828.001(3), Health and Safety Code, to redefine "sterilization."

SECTION 2. Amends Section 828.004(c), Health and Safety Code, to authorize a releasing agency to extend the deadline for 30 days on the presentation of a written report from a licensed veterinarian stating that the life or health of the adopted animal may be jeopardized by sterilization, rather than by surgery.

SECTION 3. Amends Chapter 828, Health and Safety Code, by adding Section 828.0045, as follows:

Sec. 828.0045. NONSURGICAL STERILIZATION. Authorizes a veterinarian to use nonsurgical methods and technologies approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to humanely and permanently render a dog or cat unable to reproduce.

SECTION 4. Amends Section 828.005(a), Health and Safety Code, to require certain new owners to deliver a letter signed by the veterinarian who performed the sterilization, rather than the surgery, to the releasing agency from which the animal was adopted.

SECTION 5. Amends Section 828.012(a), Health and Safety Code, to include that nonsurgical sterilization performed in accordance with this chapter must be performed by certain veterinarians or veterinary students.

SECTION 6. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2005.