

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2015**

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**SENATE BILL 856**

Short Title: Spay and Neuter. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators McKissick, Smith (Primary Sponsors); Bryant and Waddell.

Referred to: Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources

May 11, 2016

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

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

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

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

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

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

(2) Reserved for future codification purposes.

(b) The following definitions apply in this Article:

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



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.