

Date of Hearing: May 13, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2010 (Soria) – As Amended April 22, 2026

Policy Committee: Business and Professions Vote: 18 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: No Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill specifies that high-quality, high-volume spay or neuter (HQHVSN) services, as defined, that are performed either in a registered veterinary premises or by a veterinarian employed or contracted with a veterinary premises in a temporary setting are not required to take place in a facility that complies with specified standards.

FISCAL EFFECT:

The Veterinary Medical Board anticipates minor and absorbable costs to revise regulations; update inspection procedures, materials, and training; and provide education and outreach to licensees.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** This bill is sponsored by American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, San Diego Humane Society, San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and Animal Balance. According to the author:

California's pet overpopulation crisis continues to strain communities across the state. The challenge is particularly acute in rural regions throughout the Central Valley, where access to affordable spay and neuter services may be hours away and out of reach for many families. While advancements in veterinary surgical practices offer hope in addressing this growing crisis, California regulations prevent High-Quality, High-Volume Spay and Neuter (HQHVSN) services from being used to its maximum potential, dramatically limiting its ability to provide relief to the communities that need it the most. [This bill] provides a practical solution by removing unnecessary regulatory barriers to HQHVSN, while still upholding high standards of care and safety. This provides a simple, common-sense fix to allow HQHVSN at the scale needed to meet the public need, relieve our overcrowded shelters and save the lives of countless animals.

- 2) **Background.** Regulations for veterinary premises require that a veterinary premises that provides aseptic surgical services must have a means for viewing diagnostic imaging during

surgery, that open shelving is prohibited in the surgical room, and that a mobile veterinary premises that provides aseptic surgical services have a room that is distinct from the others and specifically reserved for such procedures. While workable for most scenarios of veterinary medicine, the author and sponsors of this bill argue that these regulations are too restrictive to accommodate HGHVSN procedures.

The sponsors of this measure seek to provide HGHVSN procedures in a “mobile animal surgical hospital” (MASH) setting, such as a community center or gymnasium. They contend that MASH clinics allow for a more efficient flow of animals and exponential increase in the number of animals that can be safely and quickly sterilized. However, current veterinary premises regulations—particularly the requirement for a separate surgical suite for aseptic procedures—make it difficult for MASH clinics to operate in temporary or community-based settings. This bill seeks to remove those regulatory barriers to HGHVSN clinics.

Analysis Prepared by: Allegra Kim / APPR. / (916) 319-2081