
THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2010
Author: Soria (D), et al.
Amended: 4/22/26 in Assembly
Vote: 21

SENATE BUS., PROF. & ECON. DEV. COMMITTEE: 11-0, 6/15/26

AYES: Wahab, Choi, Archuleta, Arreguín, Caballero, Grayson, Menjivar, Niello,
Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Umberg

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 5/21/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Veterinary medicine: veterinary surgery premises: spay and neuter services

SOURCE: American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Animal Balance
San Diego Humane Society
San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

DIGEST: This bill clarifies that high-volume spay and neuter services (HVSN) are not required to be performed in a separate surgical room, as specified.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/3/26 add intent language, replace references to “high-quality, high-volume” with “high-volume” spay and neuter services and clarify that HVSN services do not need to be performed in a separate surgical room.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the Veterinary Medical Board (VMB), under the jurisdiction of the Department of Consumer Affairs to license and regulate veterinarians,

registered veterinary technicians (RVTs), register veterinary premises (premises) and issue veterinary assistant-controlled substance permits (VACSPs) and sunsets the VMB and its authority to appoint an EO January 1, 2030. (Business and Professions Code (BPC) § 4800, et. seq.)

- 2) Prohibits a veterinarian from prescribing, dispensing, or administering a drug, medicine, application, or treatment of whatever nature for the prevention, cure, relief of a wound, fracture, bodily injury, or disease of animals unless a veterinarian-client patient relationship (VCPR) exists and specifies the conditions under which a VCPR is established, as specified. (BPC § 4826.6)
- 3) Requires all veterinary premises to be registered with the VMB. (BPC § 4853)
- 4) Authorizes the VMB at any time to inspect the premises in which veterinary medicine, veterinary dentistry, or veterinary surgery is being practiced, and specifies the board's inspection authority does not extend to premises that are not registered with the VMB. (BPC § 4809.5)

This bill:

- 1) States that HVSAN does not need to be performed in separate surgical room, as specified.
- 2) Defines HVSAN, for purposes of this bill, to mean the aseptic surgical sterilization by a veterinarian of 20 or more dogs, cats, or rabbits, or any combination thereof, within 12 consecutive hours.
- 3) Makes findings and declarations related to the use of high quality, high volume spay and neuter services and HVSAN.

Background

The Act and the Veterinary Medical Board (VMB). The VMB is the regulatory entity responsible for the licensure and regulation of veterinarians, RVTs, along with veterinary premises through the enforcement of the California Veterinary Medicine Practice Act (Act). The practice of veterinary medicine is specified in statute (BPC § 4826) and includes those actions such as diagnosing or prescribing a drug, medicine, appliance, application, treatment of whatever nature, for the cure or relief of a wound, fracture, bodily injury or disease of animals (including those

actions of an RVT or a veterinary assistant under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian).

Premises Registration. The VMB is responsible for licensing and inspecting veterinary premises where animal health care tasks are performed. Current law requires that any owner, operator, officer, director, shareholder, general partner or agent for service of process be clearly identified on a premises application and require any changes in these positions to be reported to the VMB within 30 days. Under current regulations, veterinary premises must meet requirements to ensure animal patient safety. In recognition that veterinary care services are evolving, the VMB recently adopted regulations to establish separate regulatory requirements for vaccination clinics, mobile veterinary premises, and small animal premises.

Minimum standards for veterinary premises include administrative requirements such as signage, kenneling standards for animals that remain in care for more than 24 hours, phone access, facility hours of operations, among others. Premises must have capacity for radiological services, pathology and diagnostic services at the site, through another premises or outside service. Premises must abide by drug storage, sanitary standards, sterilized equipment standards, veterinary reference materials, among others.

Current regulations delineate additional standards that are required when providing *aseptic surgical services*, including 1) limits on storage to surgical supplies only, 2) prohibition on open shelving, 3) have a means for viewing diagnostic images, 4) specifications for surgical equipment, 5) sterile equipment standards, 6) appropriate attire of staff, and 7) compliance with specified building standards, which require a separate surgical room for aseptic procedures that require aseptic preparation.

Minimal regulations for mobile veterinary premises include requirements for disclosure notices about the hours of operation, phone number for access to after-hour emergency services, and a number for follow up questions. Mobile clinics must also meet specified requirements for standard veterinary premises and have a separate and distinct room where aseptic surgical services are provided. Aseptic surgical procedures refer to those practices used to maintain a sterile environment during surgery to prevent contamination and infection.

Spay and Neuter and High-Quality, High-Volume Spay and Neuter. Generally, the practice of spay and neuter (the common terms) is referred to as the surgical sterilization of an animal. “Spaying” is the typical procedure for a female animal

and “neuter” is the typical procedure for a male animal. Both procedures aim to ensure that the animals will not reproduce, mainly to control the overpopulation of pets.

For purposes of this bill, HVSN services pertain to the specialized surgical techniques and operational practices which are designed to perform many spay and neuter surgeries more swiftly, while maintaining the high standards of patient care. This type of practice is often referred to as *high-quality, high-volume* spay and neuter services. Because this type of spay and neuter is a special technique that allows for a more rapid surgical procedure, these services are often performed during spay and neuter clinics, where a high-volume of animals can be spayed and neutered within the clinic’s event timeframe. This bill creates a definition of HVSN as “the aseptic surgical sterilization by a veterinarian of 20 or more dogs, cats, or rabbits, or any combination thereof, within 12 consecutive hours.” This definition provides clarification of the number of animals treated rather than the specifics on the actual surgical skills required or utilized to perform these surgeries.

The author and sponsor note that abiding by the requirement for separate surgical rooms for any veterinary surgery during HVSN events is challenging. They note, HVSN is most effective when it can be done in community centers and large shared rooms or areas which allow for the more efficient flow of procedures and exponential increase in the number of animals that can be safely and quickly sterilized. To address this challenge for HVSN pop-up event providers, this bill would exempt HVSN from being required to be performed in separate surgical rooms.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/3/26)

Animal Balance (co-source)
ASPCA (co-source)
San Francisco SPCA (co-source)
San Diego Humane Society (co-source)
Ace of Hearts Dog Rescue
Animal Shelter Assistance Program
Animalsave
Arc Inland Empire
Bay Area CATS
Berkeley-east Bay Humane Society

Best Friends Animal Society
Better World Rescue
CalAnimals
City of Huron
City of Rancho Cordova
City of Sacramento
County of Riverside
Eastwood Ranch Foundation
Forgotten Felines of Sonoma County
Friends of Colusa County Animal Shelter
Frosted Faces Foundation
Humane Society of Imperial County
Humane Veterinary Medical Association
Humane World for Animals
Inland Valley Humane Society & SPCA
Island Cat Resources and Adoption
Joybound People & Pets
Madera County Animal Services
Norcal German Shorthaired Pointer Rescue, INC
Oakland Animal Services
Orange County Animal Allies
Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA
Pets in Need
Rancho Coastal Humane Society
Ridgecrest Animal Shelter
Sacramento SPCA
Santa Barbara Humane
Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter
Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter Foundation
Sequoia Humane Society
The Dancing Cat
The Paw Mission
Town of Apple Valley Animal Services
Valley Humane Society

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/3/26)

Fix our Shelters

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: A broad coalition of stakeholders write in support and note generally that this bill will help remove barriers to vital spay and neuter services and will also support overcrowded animal shelters.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: Fix our Shelters writes in opposition to the provisions of this bill and notes a preference to “allow for the CVMB to assert its role in ensuring that any expansion of spay/neuter services is guided by evidence-based medical standards, enforceable safeguards, and a clear commitment to preventing avoidable harm to animal patients.”

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 5/21/26

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Chen, Garcia, Lackey, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Elissa Silva / B., P. & E.D. / 916-651-4104
8/5/26 16:20:48

**** **END** ****