By:  Menéndez S.B. No. 2084

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the authority of certain counties to raise revenue for low cost sterilizations for dogs and cats by imposing a refundable fee for dogs and cats who are not sterilized and are adopted without being sterilized prior to adoption.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1.  Chapter 828, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 828.015 to read as follows:

Sec. 828.015.  FEE FOR DOGS AND CATS WHO ARE ADOPTED IN CERTAIN COUNTIES.

(a)  This section applies only to a county with a population of more than 75,000:

(1)  A county in which an animal shelter or releasing agency is located may assess a refundable fee of not less than $25 when a dog or cat is adopted by a new owner and the dog or cat is not already sterilized at the time of adoption.

(b)  The county where a dog or cat is adopted by an animal shelter or a releasing agency may:

(1)  transfer any revenue from any fees authorized by

Subsection (b) and not refunded to the adopter to the general fund of the county; and

(2)  use the revenue to subsidize sterilizations for dogs and cats by:

(a)  contracting with a 501(c)(3) organization that provides spay/neuter services; or

(b)  allocating the funds to an animal shelter or releasing agency to hire veterinary staff to provide spay/neuter services; or

(c)  contracting with a 501(c)(3) organization that serves low income residents in the county to distribute spay/neuter vouchers to be used at private veterinary clinics in the county.

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2021.