

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

1 spay/neuter services; or

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

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

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