

By: A. Johnson of Harris

H.B. No. 3439

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to veterinary services performed on certain animals in the care of a releasing agency.

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

SECTION 1. Section 828.012, Health and Safety Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

(b) A veterinarian employed by a releasing agency may not perform nonemergency veterinary services other than sterilization on an animal that the releasing agency knows or should know has an owner. However, this subsection does not prevent a veterinarian employed by a releasing agency from performing veterinary services on an animal whose owner:

(1) is an individual or family whose income is:

(A) not more than 50 percent of the median income for the area in which the individual or family lives as determined using a source or methodology accepted under federal law or rule; or

(B) less than the federal poverty level for the relevant household size; and

(2) submits to the releasing agency evidence to establish the owner qualifies as an individual or family described by Subdivision (1) [~~is indigent~~].

(b-1) If a veterinarian employed by a releasing agency performs veterinary services on an animal whose owner qualifies as

1 an individual or family described by Subsection (b)(1), the agency
2 shall:

3 (1) maintain the evidence the owner submits to the
4 agency under Subsection (b)(2); and

5 (2) on request of the State Board of Veterinary
6 Medical Examiners, make the evidence available to the board for
7 inspection.

8 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.