



**SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE**  
**STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT**  
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Bill Number: S. 0687 As amended by Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources  
 Subcommittee on October 29, 2015

Author: McElveen

Requestor: Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources

Date: December 8, 2015

Subject: Animal Shelters

RFA Analyst(s): Stein and Wren

**Estimate of Fiscal Impact**

	<b>FY 2015-16</b>	<b>FY 2016-17</b>
<b>State Expenditure</b>		
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Other and Federal	\$0	\$0
Full-Time Equivalent Position(s)	0.00	0.00
<b>State Revenue</b>		
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Other and Federal	\$0	\$0
<b>Local Expenditure</b>	\$0	\$0
<b>Local Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0

**Fiscal Impact Summary**

This bill as amended would have no expenditure impact on the General Fund, Federal Funds, or Other Funds.

**Explanation of Fiscal Impact**

**Explanation of Amendment by the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee on October 29, 2015**

**State Expenditure**

Senate Bill 687 as amended prohibits mobile veterinary practices associated with a public or private animal shelter from operating any closer than one or two miles from a private veterinary practice. The bill deletes references to the Board of Veterinary Medicine and names the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR) as the regulatory agency for all animal shelters. The bill lists the types of veterinary services that may be provided and specifies record-keeping and reporting requirements that must be submitted to LLR by animal shelters.

The “No More Homeless Pets” special license plate and grant program is amended to designate the South Carolina Animal Care and Control Association (SCACCA) as the grant request coordinator on behalf of tax-exempt organizations. Before the Department of Agriculture (SCDA) may reimburse the SCACCA, the SCACCA must provide the SCDA with the names, addresses, and number of animals spayed /neutered through the grant program. The Department

of Agriculture is required to submit an annual accounting and summary of this program to the House and Senate Agriculture Committees.

**Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation.** The department reports that this bill would have no expenditure impact on the General Fund or Federal Funds. The bill would have an expenditure impact on Other Funds, but expenditures are expected to be minimal and would be absorbed within the agency's current appropriated budget.

**Department of Agriculture.** The amendment to S. 0687 requires the Department of Agriculture to annually provide to the General Assembly an accounting of the grants provided under the "No More Homeless Pets" special license plate grant program. The department reports that this bill will have no expenditure impact on the General Fund, Federal Funds, or Other Funds. Any additional costs associated with this provision would be absorbed within the agency's appropriated budget.

**Judicial Department.** The impact of the bill as amended is unchanged from the bill as originally filed. At that time, the department reported that the bill creates a new criminal offense dealing with pet medication labeling and dispensing. This bill would have no expenditure impact on the General fund, Federal Funds, or Other Funds. However, county and municipal courts might experience an impact should this bill result in an increase in the number of court cases.

**Department of Health and Environmental Control.** The impact of the bill as amended is unchanged from the bill as originally filed. At that time, the department reported that this bill would have no expenditure impact on the General Fund, Federal Funds, or Other Funds.

#### **State Revenue**

N/A

#### **Local Expenditure**

The amendment to this bill prohibits a mobile veterinary practice associated with an animal shelter from operating any closer than one or two miles from the nearest private veterinarian practice. The required distance is county-specific and is determined by the county's "Job Tax Credit" designation as outlined in Section 12-6-3360(B)(1)(2)(3)(4). The impact of this bill as amended on local expenditures is unchanged from the bill as originally filed.

#### **Local Revenue**

N/A

### **Explanation of Bill Filed on April 21, 2015**

#### **State Expenditure**

Senate Bill 687 amends Section 40-69-295 and adds Section 40-69-300 dealing with veterinarians. The bill requires all mobile veterinary facilities to identify the location of the emergency veterinary facility closest to the current location of the mobile van by posting the contact information at the mobile location and on paperwork given to the pet owner. The bill prohibits a mobile practice operated by a non-profit animal group from operating within seven miles of a privately-owned veterinary practice. The bill adds definitions for pet, mobile veterinary practice, animal shelter, and veterinary services. The bill lists the services that shelters

may perform and provides that all animal shelters are to be regulated by the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation and the Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners. The bill limits veterinary services offered by shelters to low-income owners and identifies the records that must be maintained by the shelters and veterinarians. The bill declares it unlawful to dispense a drug for a pet unless the medication is labeled with all the information required by federal and state law and prescribed by a licensed veterinarian. The bill provides penalties for violations.

**Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation.** The department reports that this bill would have no expenditure impact on the General Fund or Federal Funds. The bill would have an expenditure impact on Other Funds, but expenditures are expected to be minimal and would be absorbed within the agency's current appropriated budget.

**Judicial Department.** The department reports that the bill creates a new criminal offense of dispensing a pet medication prescribed by a licensed veterinarian that is not properly labeled. Hearings and trials for this new offense would be heard in Summary Courts. Although it is not possible to predict the number of cases this bill might generate, The Judicial Department reports that this bill would have no expenditure impact on the General Fund, Federal Funds, or Other Funds. Any expenditure impact would be borne by municipalities and counties.

**Department of Health and Environmental Control.** The department reports that this bill would have no expenditure impact on the General Fund, Federal Funds, or Other Funds.

#### **State Revenue**

N/A

#### **Local Expenditure**

The Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office contacted the Municipal Association of South Carolina and twenty-three county governments regarding the expenditure impact of this bill. We received responses from Cherokee and Clarendon Counties. Both counties report that this bill would have no expenditure impact on their jurisdictions. Due to the limited number of responses, our office is not able to determine the expenditure impact on local governments.

#### **Local Revenue**

N/A

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Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director