

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 24, 2017

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 21, 2017

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 22, 2017

SENATE BILL

No. 673

Introduced by Senator Newman

February 17, 2017

An act to amend Section 5168 of the Vehicle Code, relating to license plates.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 673, as amended, Newman. Pet Lover's specialized license plates.

Existing law establishes a specialized license plate program and requires the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to issue specialized license plates on behalf of a sponsoring state agency that meets certain requirements. Existing law requires that the DMV charge specified additional fees for the issuance, renewal, or transfer of specialized license plates, and requires the DMV to deposit the fees, less the DMV's costs, into the Specialized License Plate Fund. Existing law requires that moneys in the fund be allocated, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to each sponsoring agency in proportion to the amount that is attributable to the agency's specialized license plate program. Existing law requires the sponsoring state agency to use these moneys to fund projects and programs that promote the state agency's official policy, mission, or work.

Existing law requires the DMV to deposit fees for the issuance, renewal, or transfer of the Pet Lover's specialized license plates, less the DMV's costs, into the Pet Lover's Fund in the Specialized License Plate Fund, for the deposit of revenue derived from these specialized

license plates. Existing law requires that these funds be allocated, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to the Veterinary Medical Board for disbursement by a nonprofit organization selected by the board to fund grants to providers of no-cost or low-cost animal sterilization services. Existing law requires the board to determine eligibility requirements for the grants, establish the grant application process, and develop program specifics. Existing law authorizes the board to contract with an entity, including a nonprofit organization, to provide advice, consultation, and administrative services for purposes of implementing and administering the grant program. Existing law requires the board to provide oversight for the disbursal of grant funds under the grant program.

This bill would revise and recast those provisions by, among other things, substituting the Department of Food and Agriculture for the Veterinary Medical Board for those purposes. The bill would require the department to allocate the grant funds, as specified, to eligible veterinary facilities, as defined, that offer low-cost or no-cost animal sterilization services. The bill would authorize the department to contract with an eligible nonprofit organization, as defined, to perform marketing and promotional activities. The bill would also require the department to administer and oversee the grant program, and would require the department to collaborate with an eligible nonprofit organization to provide advice and consultation for the purposes of developing and implementing the program.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) The Pet Lover’s specialized license plate, sponsored by the
- 4 California Spay and Neuter License Plate Fund, Inc., and the
- 5 Veterinary Medical Board, has been in existence since 2013.
- 6 (b) Due to various administrative issues, funds deposited into
- 7 the Pet Lover’s Fund have yet to be expended for the plate’s
- 8 original intent to fund providers of no-cost or low-cost animal
- 9 sterilization services.
- 10 (c) The sponsors have pursued several measures to rectify this
- 11 issue and as such, seek to transfer authority to administer the Pet

1 Lover’s specialized license plate program and the Pet Lover’s Fund
2 from the Veterinary Medical Board to the Department of Food and
3 Agriculture.

4 (d) It is therefore the intent of the Legislature that the
5 Department of Food and Agriculture work with the previous
6 administering partners, the Veterinary Medical Board and the
7 California Spay and Neuter License Plate Fund, Inc., to achieve
8 the stated goal of the Pet Lover’s specialized license plate program.

9 SEC. 2. Section 5168 of the Vehicle Code is amended to read:

10 5168. (a) The fees specified in Section 5157 shall be imposed
11 for the issuance, renewal, or transfer of the Pet Lover’s specialized
12 license plates. Notwithstanding subdivision (c) of Section 5157,
13 after deducting its administrative costs, the department shall deposit
14 the revenue derived from the additional fees into the Pet Lover’s
15 Fund, which is hereby established in the Specialized License Plate
16 Fund.

17 (b) Upon appropriation by the Legislature, the moneys in the
18 Pet Lover’s Fund shall be allocated to the Department of Food and
19 Agriculture. There shall not be an allocation to the Department of
20 Food and Agriculture pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 5157.

21 (c) The Department of Food and Agriculture shall allocate those
22 grant funds to eligible veterinary facilities that offer low-cost or
23 no-cost animal sterilization services.

24 (1) In administering *the* grants, the department may prioritize
25 both of the following:

26 (A) Eligible veterinary facilities located in or serving
27 underserved communities or those that can demonstrate financial
28 need.

29 (B) Eligible veterinary facilities that have previously provided
30 or currently provide low-cost or no-cost animal sterilization
31 services.

32 (2) For the purposes of this subdivision, “eligible veterinary
33 facilities” mean those facilities that are any of the following:

34 (A) Registered and in good standing with the Veterinary Medical
35 Board, pursuant to Section 4853 of the Business and Professions
36 Code.

37 (B) Overseen by a responsible licensee manager licensed and
38 in good standing with the Veterinary Medical Board, pursuant to
39 Chapter 11 (commencing with Section 4800) of Division 2 of the
40 Business and Professions Code.

1 (C) (i) Operated by a city, county, city and county, an animal
2 care or control agency, or a nonprofit meeting the requirements of
3 Section 501(c)(3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code that is
4 registered and in good standing with the Secretary of State.

5 (ii) A city, county, or city and county animal control agency or
6 nonprofit shelter holding a municipal contract that offers spay and
7 neuter services for dogs and cats owned by individual members
8 of the public is required to be current on their yearly rabies
9 reporting requirements to the State Department of Public Health,
10 Veterinary Public Health Section.

11 (d) Annual administrative costs for the program shall not exceed
12 25 percent of the funds collected from the issuance of the Pet
13 Lover's license plates, and may include funds for marketing and
14 other promotional activities associated with encouraging
15 application ~~for~~ *for*, or renewal ~~of~~ *of*, Pet Lover's license plates and
16 collaboration expenses. The Department of Food and Agriculture
17 may contract with an eligible nonprofit organization to perform
18 the marketing and promotional activities authorized.

19 (1) The eligible nonprofit organization selected by the
20 Department of Food and Agriculture pursuant to this subdivision
21 shall not use more than 5 percent of the moneys received pursuant
22 to this section for administrative costs.

23 (2) For the purposes of this subdivision, "eligible nonprofit
24 organization" means a nonprofit entity that is all of the following:

25 (A) Qualifies for tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of
26 the federal Internal Revenue Code and subdivision (d) of Section
27 23701 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.

28 (B) Registered and in good standing with the Secretary of State.

29 (C) Chaptered and headquartered in this state.

30 (D) Has demonstrated experience advertising, marketing, and
31 promoting specialized license plates in existence prior to 2016
32 pursuant to ~~Section 5060~~ *this article*.

33 (e) The Department of Food and Agriculture shall determine
34 eligibility requirements for the grants, establish the grant
35 application process, and develop program specifics. The
36 Department of Food and Agriculture shall collaborate with an
37 eligible nonprofit organization, as defined in paragraph (2) of
38 subdivision (d), to provide advice and consultation for the purposes
39 of developing and implementing the grant program. The

- 1 Department of Food and Agriculture shall administer and oversee
- 2 the grant program.

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