

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 substitute revise and recast those provisions by, among other things, substituting the Department of Food and Agriculture in place of the for the Veterinary Medical Board for those purposes. The bill would authorize rather than require the Department of Food and Agriculture to allocate funds to a nonprofit organization it selects for disbursal to qualifying spay and neuter facilities for the purpose of funding grants to providers of no-cost or low-cost animal sterilization services. 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*

1 *original intent to fund providers of no-cost or low-cost animal*  
2 *sterilization services.*

3 *(c) The sponsors have pursued several measures to rectify this*  
4 *issue and as such, seek to transfer authority to administer the Pet*  
5 *Lover’s specialized license plate program and the Pet Lover’s*  
6 *Fund from the Veterinary Medical Board to the Department of*  
7 *Food and Agriculture.*

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

13 **SECTION 1.**

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

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

22 (b) Upon appropriation by the Legislature, the moneys in the  
23 Pet Lover’s Fund shall be allocated to the Department of Food and  
24 Agriculture. There shall not be an allocation to the Department of  
25 Food and Agriculture pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 5157.  
26 ~~The Department of Food and Agriculture may allocate those funds~~  
27 ~~to a nonprofit organization it selects for disbursal to qualifying~~  
28 ~~spay and neuter facilities for the sole and exclusive purpose of~~  
29 ~~funding grants to providers of no-cost or low-cost animal~~  
30 ~~sterilization services.~~

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

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

36 *(A) Eligible veterinary facilities located in or serving*  
37 *underserved communities or those that can demonstrate financial*  
38 *need.*

1 (B) Eligible veterinary facilities that have previously provided  
2 or currently provide low-cost or no-cost animal sterilization  
3 services.

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

6 (A) Registered and in good standing with the Veterinary Medical  
7 Board, pursuant to Section 4853 of the Business and Professions  
8 Code.

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

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

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

23 (e)  
24 (d) Annual administrative costs for the program shall not exceed  
25 25 percent of the funds collected from the issuance of the Pet  
26 Lover’s license plates, and may include *funds for* marketing and  
27 other promotional activities associated with encouraging  
28 application for or renewal of Pet Lover’s license ~~plates~~. *plates and*  
29 *collaboration expenses. The Department of Food and Agriculture*  
30 *may contract with an eligible nonprofit organization to perform*  
31 *the marketing and promotional activities authorized.*

32 (e)  
33 (1) The eligible nonprofit organization selected by the  
34 Department of Food and Agriculture pursuant to this subdivision  
35 shall not use more than 5 percent of the moneys received pursuant  
36 to this section for administrative costs.

37 (2) For the purposes of this subdivision, “eligible nonprofit  
38 organization” means a nonprofit entity that is all of the following:

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

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

5 (C) *Chartered and headquartered in this state.*

6 (D) *Has demonstrated experience advertising, marketing, and*  
7 *promoting specialized license plates in existence prior to 2016*  
8 *pursuant to Section 5060.*

9 (e) The Department of Food and Agriculture shall determine  
10 eligibility requirements for the grants, establish the grant  
11 application process, and develop program specifics.—The  
12 Department of Food and Agriculture may contract with an entity,  
13 including a nonprofit organization, to provide advice, consultation,  
14 and administrative services for purposes of implementing and  
15 administering the grant program. The Department of Food and  
16 Agriculture shall provide oversight for the disbursement of grant funds  
17 under the grant program. *The Department of Food and Agriculture*  
18 *shall collaborate with an eligible nonprofit organization, as defined*  
19 *in paragraph (2) of subdivision (d), to provide advice and*  
20 *consultation for the purposes of developing and implementing the*  
21 *grant program. The Department of Food and Agriculture shall*  
22 *administer and oversee the grant program.*