

SENATE BILL NO. 412

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources
on January 30, 2024)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Senator Boysko)

A BILL to amend and reenact § 3.2-6521 of the Code of Virginia, relating to rabies clinics; animal
vaccination and microchip services.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 3.2-6521 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

**§ 3.2-6521. Rabies inoculation of companion animals; availability of certificate; rabies
clinics.**

A. The owner or custodian of all dogs and cats four months of age and older shall have such animal
currently vaccinated for rabies by a licensed veterinarian or licensed veterinary technician who is under
the immediate and direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian on the premises unless otherwise provided
by regulations. The supervising veterinarian on the premises shall provide the owner or custodian of the
dog or the cat with a rabies vaccination certificate or herd rabies vaccination certificate and shall keep a
copy in his own files. The owner or custodian of the dog or the cat shall furnish within a reasonable period
of time, upon the request of an animal control officer, humane investigator, law-enforcement officer, State
Veterinarian's representative, or official of the Department of Health, the certificate of vaccination for
such dog or cat. The vaccine used shall be licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for use in that
species. At the discretion of the local health director, a medical record from a licensed veterinary
establishment reflecting a currently vaccinated status may serve as proof of vaccination.

B. All rabies clinics require the approval by the appropriate local health department and governing
body. The licensed veterinarian who administers rabies vaccinations at the clinic shall (i) provide the
owner or custodian a rabies vaccination certificate for each vaccinated animal and (ii) ensure that a
licensed veterinary facility retains a copy of the rabies vaccination certificate. The sponsoring organization

27 of a rabies clinic shall, upon the request of the owner or custodian, an animal control officer, a humane
28 investigator, a law-enforcement officer, a State Veterinarian's representative, a licensed veterinarian, or
29 an official of the Department of Health, provide the name and contact information of the licensed
30 veterinary facility where a copy of the rabies vaccination certificate is retained. However, the county or
31 city shall ensure that a clinic is conducted to serve its jurisdiction at least once every two years.

32 C. Rabies clinics approved by the appropriate local health department and governing body may
33 offer microchipping and additional animal health vaccines at the discretion of the licensed veterinarian or
34 veterinarians participating in the clinic. Any licensed veterinarian who administers animal health
35 vaccinations at the clinic shall (i) provide the owner or custodian of an animal a vaccination record for
36 each vaccinated animal and (ii) ensure that a licensed veterinary establishment retains a copy of each
37 vaccination record. Licensed veterinary technicians may administer animal health vaccines at a rabies
38 clinic under the immediate and direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian on the premises unless
39 otherwise provided by regulations.

40 D. Local health departments shall submit a report to the Department of Health no later than
41 December 31 of each year that includes (i) the number and location of rabies clinics approved pursuant to
42 subsections B and C and (ii) the number and type of vaccinations administered, the number of microchips
43 administered, and the number of veterinarians and veterinary technicians in attendance at each clinic to
44 determine the type of service utilized.

45 E. Vaccination subsequent to a summons to appear before a court for failure to do so shall not
46 operate to relieve such owner from the penalties or court costs provided under § 16.1-69.48:1 or 17.1-
47 275.7.

48 ~~D.~~ F. The Board of Health shall, by regulation, provide an exemption to the requirements of
49 subsection A if an animal suffers from an underlying medical condition that is likely to result in a life-
50 threatening condition in response to vaccination and such exemption would not risk public health and
51 safety. For the purposes of § 3.2-6522, such exemption shall mean that the animal is considered not
52 currently vaccinated for rabies. For the purposes of §§ 3.2-5902, 3.2-6526, and 3.2-6527, such exemption
53 shall be considered in place of a current certificate of vaccination.

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