

H. B. 4504

(By Delegates Kessler (By Request), Burdiss,
Moye, Rodighiero, Sumner and C. Miller)

[Introduced February 12, 2008; referred to the

Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources then the Judiciary.]

A BILL to amend and reenact §19-20A-2 and §19-20A-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, all relating to requiring the administration of rabies vaccination extended to a three year period.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That §19-20A-2 and §19-20A-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted, all to read as follows:

ARTICLE 20A. VACCINATION OF DOGS AND CATS FOR RABIES.

§19-20A-2. Vaccination of dogs and cats.

Whoever owns, keeps or harbors a dog or cat within the boundaries of any county in the State of West Virginia shall, on or before the first day of June, one thousand nine hundred eighty-seven, have such dog or cat properly vaccinated or immunized against rabies with a vaccine capable of producing immunity for ~~two~~ three years and shall every ~~second~~ third year thereafter have such dog or cat revaccinated with a vaccine capable of producing immunity for ~~two~~ three years. After the first day of June, one thousand nine hundred eighty-seven, whoever obtains an unvaccinated dog or cat shall at once have such dog or cat properly vaccinated against rabies with a vaccine capable of producing immunity for ~~two~~ three years and shall have such vaccination repeated every ~~second~~ third year with a vaccine capable of producing immunity for ~~two~~ three years: *Provided*, That dogs and cats need not be vaccinated before the age of three months, but must be vaccinated by the age of six months: *Provided, however*, That dogs and cats entering the State of West Virginia temporarily cannot be kept and maintained within the State of West Virginia for a period of more than thirty days unless properly vaccinated. Anyone owning a dog or cat can have them vaccinated by any veterinarian or person working with or under such veterinarian, or if there be no resident veterinarian in the county, by such other qualified person as may be appointed by the county commission, who shall work under the supervision of the county health department.

§19-20A-5. Type of vaccine to be furnished; fee.

It shall be the duty of the veterinarian, or person vaccinating each animal to furnish vaccine of a type capable of establishing and maintaining immunity for a period of not less than ~~twenty-four~~ thirty-six months and he or she shall charge and collect a fee of not more than eight dollars for each animal vaccinated, if done at a clinic established by a county commission or, if vaccinated at any other place, he or she shall charge and collect a reasonable fee for his or her services.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to extend the required period between rabies vaccination for dogs and cats to three years.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.