

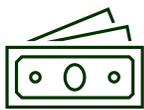
VSNIIP Program

The Vermont Spay Neuter Incentive Program (VSNIIP) is overseen by the General Assistance Program in Economic Services within the Department for Children and Families (DCF). The proposed legislative changes introduce several modifications to the program, many of which raise significant concerns about sustainability, practicality, and program integrity.



Program Oversight Shift

- ▶ The administration is in support of moving the law from the Agency of Agriculture to DCF, but not to the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO). Instead, it should be moved to Economic Services Division.



Fee and Copayment Adjustments

- ▶ While fee increases from \$4 to \$6 may generate more revenue, they may also create an undue burden on pet owners.
- ▶ Copayment increases from \$27 to \$50 is a steep increase that exceeds the allowable incremental increase under current rules, which cap annual increases to \$2 per year. This could discourage participation and reduce access to the program.



Expansion of Covered Rabbits and up to 5 Pets

- ▶ The addition of rabbits is concerning because the fees generated from dog licenses do not adequately cover current program costs. Expanding coverage to additional species would only exacerbate the funding shortfall.
- ▶ While the proposed increase to 5 pets may be intended to broaden access, it introduces a limit which currently doesn't exist.



Administrative Concerns

- ▶ Increase voucher validity from 60 days to 8 weeks. This proposed change is problematic because 8 weeks is less than 60 days, creating potential confusion and logistical issues.

Summary of Position: The administration supports moving the law to the Economic Services Division (ESD) as it currently administers the program. However, the administration opposes the remaining proposed changes due to concerns about financial sustainability, increased administrative burden, and potential unintended consequences.