Vote Pushes California Spay-Neuter Bill to Assembly

Reconsideration vote approves measure that would require sterilization of dogs and cats.

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The California State Senate on Tuesday approved SB 250, a measure that seeks to require pet sterilization for most of the state's cats and dogs. The 21-16 vote sent the bill to the Assembly for consideration.

SB 250, also known as the Pet Responsibility Act by Senate Majority Leader Dean Florez, failed in the Senate on Monday with a vote of 16-15. It needed 21 votes to pass. However, a second vote for "reconsideration" was taken and passed, allowing Senate members to revote on Tuesday.

The bill calls on cat owners to spay or neuter their cats at 6 months of age if the cats are allowed to roam at large. The bill also requires the sterilization of all dogs at 6 months of age, unless the owner gets an unaltered dog license.

SB 250 has been amended to authorize local governments to use existing procedures to issue the intact dog licenses or to charge a fee for procedures related to the issuance, denial or revocation of unaltered dog licenses.