

Calif. bill would force more owners to neuter pets

SACRAMENTO (AP) -- Another attempt to force dog and cat owners to spay or neuter their pets is making its way through the Legislature.

The bill was approved Tuesday in the Senate. It would require dog owners, with some exceptions, to have their pets sterilized unless their local animal control agency agreed to issue them a license that allowed the animal to remain intact.

Cats allowed to roam out of doors also would have to be spayed or neutered.

The bill's author, Sen. Dean Florez, a Shafter Democrat, said the bill was an attempt to reduce the \$250 million California spends a year to house and euthanize unwanted pets.

Tuesday's 21-16 vote sent the bill to the Assembly, which passed a similar bill last year that died in the Senate.