



State of South Carolina Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA 29201

June 8, 2016

The Honorable Henry D. McMaster
President of the Senate
Statehouse, Second Floor
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Mr. President and Members of the Senate,

Today, I am vetoing and returning without my approval, R231, S.0980, a bill that would prohibit a nonprofit mobile veterinary practice from operating within "eyesight" of a privately owned veterinarian practice. **I am vetoing this bill because it places an unnecessary restriction on low-cost and convenient animal-care options offered to pet owners.**

South Carolina is a state that encourages homeless pet adoption, and this bill makes some attempts to clarify practice standards for individuals working in animal shelters and standardize medication labeling. It is unfortunate, then, that pro-veterinary groups tacked this arbitrary and obstructionist provision onto an otherwise inoffensive bill. **Allowing it to become law would be an undue economic protection measure for private veterinarians and a disservice to homeless pets and would-be pet owners.**

I am aware this bill contains some reforms that are admirable, but while this occupational protection provision remains in the bill, I cannot support it. I urge you to support my veto of this bill and the South Carolinians that dedicate their time and resources to responsible pet ownership.

My very best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Nikki R. Haley".

Nikki R. Haley