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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 1228

02/02/2023 Authored by Huot, Bierman, Baker, O'Neill, Berg and others
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Health Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to veterinary medicine; regulating veterinary technicians, the practice of
1.3 veterinary technology, and unlicensed veterinary employees; amending Minnesota
1.4 Statutes 2022, sections 156.001, by adding subdivisions; 156.07; proposing coding
1.5 for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 156.

1.6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.7 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 156.001, is amended by adding a subdivision
1.8 to read:

1.9 Subd. 5a. Direct supervision. "Direct supervision" means:

1.10 (1) when a supervising veterinarian or licensed veterinary technician is in the immediate
1.11 area and within audible or visual range of an animal and the unlicensed veterinary employee
1.12 treating the animal;

1.13 (2) the supervising veterinarian has met the requirements of a veterinarian-client-patient
1.14 relationship under section 156.16, subdivision 12; and

1.15 (3) the supervising veterinarian assumes responsibility for the professional care given
1.16 to an animal by a person working under the veterinarian's direction.

1.17 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 156.001, is amended by adding a subdivision to
1.18 read:

1.19 Subd. 7a. Licensed veterinary technician. "Licensed veterinary technician" means a
1.20 person licensed by the board under section 156.077.

2.1 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 156.001, is amended by adding a subdivision to
2.2 read:

2.3 Subd. 10b. **Remote supervision.** "Remote supervision" means:

2.4 (1) a veterinarian is not on the premises but is acquainted with the keeping and care of
2.5 an animal by virtue of an examination of the animal or medically appropriate and timely
2.6 visits to the premises where the animal is kept;

2.7 (2) the veterinarian has given written or oral instructions to a licensed veterinary
2.8 technician for ongoing care of an animal and is available by telephone or other form of
2.9 immediate communication; and

2.10 (3) the employee treating the animal timely enters into the animal's medical record
2.11 documentation of the treatment provided, and the documentation is reviewed by the
2.12 veterinarian.

2.13 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 156.001, is amended by adding a subdivision to
2.14 read:

2.15 Subd. 12. **Veterinary technology.** "Veterinary technology" means the science and
2.16 practice of providing professional support to veterinarians, including the direct supervision
2.17 of unlicensed veterinary employees. Veterinary technology does not include veterinary
2.18 diagnosis, prognosis, surgery, or medication prescription.

2.19 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 156.07, is amended to read:

2.20 **156.07 LICENSE RENEWAL.**

2.21 Persons licensed under this chapter shall conspicuously display their license in their
2.22 principal place of business.

2.23 Persons now ~~qualified to practice veterinary medicine~~ licensed in this state, or who shall
2.24 hereafter be licensed by the Board of Veterinary Medicine ~~to engage in the practice as~~
2.25 veterinarians or veterinary technicians, shall periodically renew their license in a manner
2.26 prescribed by the board. The board shall establish license renewal fees and continuing
2.27 education requirements. The board may establish, by rule, an inactive license category, at
2.28 a lower fee, for licensees not actively engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine or
2.29 veterinary technology within the state of Minnesota. The board may assess a charge for
2.30 delinquent payment of a renewal fee.

3.1 Any person who is licensed to practice veterinary medicine or veterinary technology in
3.2 this state pursuant to this chapter, shall be entitled to receive a license to continue to practice
3.3 upon making application to the board and complying with the terms of this section and rules
3.4 of the board.

3.5 Sec. 6. **[156.076] DIRECT SUPERVISION; UNLICENSED VETERINARY**
3.6 **EMPLOYEES.**

3.7 (a) An unlicensed veterinary employee may only administer medication or render
3.8 auxiliary or supporting assistance under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian or
3.9 licensed veterinary technician.

3.10 (b) This section does not prohibit:

3.11 (1) the performance of generalized nursing tasks ordered by the veterinarian and
3.12 performed by an unlicensed employee on inpatient animals during the hours when a
3.13 veterinarian is not on the premises; or

3.14 (2) under emergency conditions, an unlicensed employee from rendering lifesaving aid
3.15 and treatment to an animal in the absence of a veterinarian if the animal is in a life-threatening
3.16 condition and requires immediate treatment to sustain life or prevent further injury.

3.17 Sec. 7. **[156.077] LICENSED VETERINARY TECHNICIANS.**

3.18 Subdivision 1. **Licensure; practice.** (a) The board shall issue a license to practice as a
3.19 veterinary technician to an applicant who satisfies the requirements in this section and those
3.20 imposed by the board in rule. A licensed veterinary technician may practice veterinary
3.21 technology. A person may not use the title "veterinary technician" or the abbreviation "LVT"
3.22 unless licensed by the board.

3.23 (b) The board may adopt by rule additional licensure requirements or definitions for
3.24 veterinary technician titles.

3.25 Subd. 2. **Applicants; qualifications.** Application for a license to practice veterinary
3.26 technology in this state shall be made to the board on a form furnished by the board and
3.27 accompanied by evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant is at least 18 years of
3.28 age, is of good moral character, and has met the following requirements:

3.29 (1) graduated from a veterinary technology program accredited or approved by the
3.30 American Veterinary Medical Association or Canadian Veterinary Medical Association;

3.31 (2) received a passing score for the Veterinary Technician National Examination;

4.1 (3) received a passing score for the Minnesota Veterinary Technician Jurisprudence
 4.2 Examination; and
 4.3 (4) completed a criminal background check.

4.4 Subd. 3. **Required with application.** A completed application must contain the following
 4.5 information and material:

4.6 (1) the application fee set by the board, which is not refundable if permission to take the
 4.7 jurisprudence examination is denied for good cause;

4.8 (2) proof of graduation from a veterinary technology program accredited or approved
 4.9 by the American Veterinary Medical Association or Canadian Veterinary Medical
 4.10 Association;

4.11 (3) affidavits from at least two licensed veterinarians and three adults who are not related
 4.12 to the applicant that establish how long, when, and under what circumstances the references
 4.13 have known the applicant and any other facts that may enable the board to determine the
 4.14 applicant's qualifications; and

4.15 (4) if the applicant has served in the armed forces, a copy of the applicant's discharge
 4.16 papers.

4.17 Subd. 4. **Temporary alternative qualifications.** (a) The board shall consider an
 4.18 application for licensure submitted by a person before July 1, 2030, if the person provides
 4.19 evidence satisfactory to the board that the person:

4.20 (1) is a certified veterinary technician in good standing with the Minnesota Veterinary
 4.21 Medical Association; or

4.22 (2) has at least 4,160 hours actively engaged in the practice of veterinary technology
 4.23 within the previous five years.

4.24 (b) Each applicant under this subdivision must also submit to the board affidavits from
 4.25 at least two licensed veterinarians and three adults who are not related to the applicant that
 4.26 establish how long, when, and under what circumstances the references have known the
 4.27 applicant and any other facts that may enable the board to determine the applicant's
 4.28 qualifications.

4.29 Sec. 8. **[156.078] NONRESIDENTS; LICENSED VETERINARY TECHNICIANS.**

4.30 A credentialed veterinary technician duly admitted to practice in any state,
 4.31 commonwealth, territory, or district of the United States or province of Canada that desires
 4.32 permission to practice veterinary technology in this state shall submit an application to the

5.1 board on a form furnished by the board. The board shall review an application for transfer
5.2 if the applicant submits:

5.3 (1) a copy of a diploma from an accredited or approved college of veterinary technology
5.4 or certification from the dean, registrar, or secretary of an accredited or approved college
5.5 of veterinary technology or a certificate of satisfactory completion of the PAVE program;

5.6 (2) if requesting waiver of examination, evidence of meeting licensure requirements in
5.7 the state of the applicant's original licensure;

5.8 (3) affidavits of two licensed practicing doctors of veterinary medicine or veterinary
5.9 technicians residing in the United States or Canadian licensing jurisdiction in which the
5.10 applicant is or was most recently practicing, attesting that they are well acquainted with the
5.11 applicant, that the applicant is a person of good moral character, and that the applicant has
5.12 been actively engaged in practicing or teaching in such jurisdiction;

5.13 (4) a certificate from the agency that regulates the conduct of practice of veterinary
5.14 technology in the jurisdiction in which the applicant is or was most recently practicing,
5.15 stating that the applicant is in good standing and is not the subject of disciplinary action or
5.16 pending disciplinary action;

5.17 (5) a certificate from all other jurisdictions in which the applicant holds a currently active
5.18 license or held a license within the past ten years, stating that the applicant is and was in
5.19 good standing and has not been subject to disciplinary action;

5.20 (6) in lieu of the certificates in clauses (4) and (5), certification from the Veterinary
5.21 Information Verification Agency that the applicant's licensure is in good standing;

5.22 (7) a fee as set by the board in form of check or money order payable to the board, no
5.23 part of which shall be refunded should the application be denied;

5.24 (8) score reports on previously taken national examinations in veterinary technology,
5.25 certified by the Veterinary Information Verification Agency or evidence of employment as
5.26 a veterinary technician for at least three years;

5.27 (9) proof that the applicant received a passing score for the Minnesota Veterinary
5.28 Technician Jurisprudence Examination; and

5.29 (10) proof of a completed criminal background check.

5.30 **Sec. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

5.31 This act is effective July 1, 2025.