

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## SSB 5381

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*As Reported By House Committee on:  
Agriculture & Rural Development*

**Title:** An act relating to veterinary medicine.

**Brief Description:** Allowing a veterinarian to dispense legend drugs prescribed by another veterinarian.

**Sponsor(s):** Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators West, Gaspard, Bailey, Hansen, Bauer and L. Smith).

**Brief History:**

Reported by House Committee on:  
Agriculture & Rural Development, April 2, 1991, DP.

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**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Majority Report:** *Do pass.* Signed by 11 members: Representatives Rayburn, Chair; Kremen, Vice Chair; Nealey, Ranking Minority Member; P. Johnson, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Chandler; Grant; R. Johnson; Lisk; McLean; Rasmussen; and Roland.

**Staff:** Kenneth Hirst (786-7105).

**Background:** Under state law, a "legend drug" is one which may not be sold, delivered, or possessed except upon the order or prescription of certain licensed practitioners. These licensed practitioners include veterinarians.

**Summary of Bill:** A licensed veterinarian may dispense veterinary legend drugs that have been prescribed by another licensed veterinarian. However, this activity may not constitute more than 5 percent of the dosage units of legend drugs dispensed annually by the veterinarian. The dispensing veterinarian must keep records of these dispensing activities.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** Under current law, if a veterinarian is out of the legend drug he or she prescribed for a customer's animal, the customer cannot get the drug from another practitioner. The bill permits the customer to fill the prescription.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Witnesses:** Greg Hanon, Washington Veterinary Medical Association; and Susan Shirley and Jack Melton, Veterinary Board of Governors.