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HOUSE BILL 1331

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State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Haigh, Kretz, Wallace, Walsh, Cody, Strow, Hinkle, Pettigrew, Priest and Dunn

Read first time 01/17/2007. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources.

1            AN ACT Relating to veterinary technicians; amending RCW 18.92.015,  
2 18.92.021, 18.92.030, 18.92.013, 18.92.140, and 18.92.145; and adding  
3 a new section to chapter 18.92 RCW.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5            **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.92.015 and 2000 c 93 s 9 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7            (~~Unless the context clearly requires otherwise,~~) The definitions  
8 in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context  
9 clearly requires otherwise.

10            (~~"Veterinary technician" means a person who has successfully~~  
11 ~~completed an examination administered by the board and who has either~~  
12 ~~successfully completed a post high school course approved by the board~~  
13 ~~in the care and treatment of animals or had five years' practical~~  
14 ~~experience, acceptable to the board, with a licensed veterinarian.))~~

15            (1) "Board" means the Washington state veterinary board of  
16 governors.

17            (2) "Department" means the department of health.

18            (3) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department of health.

1       (4) "Veterinary medication clerk" means a person who has  
2 satisfactorily completed a board-approved training program developed in  
3 consultation with the board of pharmacy and designed to prepare persons  
4 to perform certain nondiscretionary functions defined by the board and  
5 used in the dispensing of legend and nonlegend drugs (except controlled  
6 substances as defined in or under chapter 69.50 RCW) associated with  
7 the practice of veterinary medicine.

8       (5) "Veterinary technician" means a person who is licensed by the  
9 board upon meeting the requirements of section 2 of this act.

10       NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 18.92 RCW  
11 to read as follows:

12       (1) The board shall issue a veterinary technician license to an  
13 individual who has:

14       (a) Successfully passed an examination administered by the board;  
15 and

16       (b)(i) Successfully completed a posthigh school course approved by  
17 the board in the care and treatment of animals; or

18       (ii) Had five years' practical experience, acceptable to the board,  
19 with a licensed veterinarian.

20       (2) The board shall adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW identifying  
21 standard tasks and procedures that must be included in the experience  
22 of a person who qualifies to take the veterinarian technician  
23 examination through the period of practical experience required in  
24 subsection (1)(b)(ii) of this section, and requirements for the  
25 supervising veterinarian's attestation to completion of the practical  
26 experience and that training included the required tasks and  
27 procedures.

28       **Sec. 3.** RCW 18.92.021 and 1983 c 2 s 2 are each amended to read as  
29 follows:

30       (1) There is created a Washington state veterinary board of  
31 governors consisting of (~~six~~) seven members, five of whom shall be  
32 licensed veterinarians, one of whom shall be a licensed veterinary  
33 technician, and one of whom shall be a lay member.

34       (2)(a) The licensed members shall be appointed by the governor. At  
35 the time of their appointment the licensed members of the board must be  
36 actual residents of the state in active practice as licensed

1 practitioners of veterinary medicine, surgery, and dentistry, or  
2 employed as a licensed veterinary technician, as applicable, and must  
3 be citizens of the United States. Not more than one licensed  
4 veterinary member shall be from the same congressional district. The  
5 board shall not be deemed to be unlawfully constituted and a member of  
6 the board shall not be deemed ineligible to serve the remainder of the  
7 member's unexpired term on the board solely by reason of the  
8 establishment of new or revised boundaries for congressional districts.

9 (b) The terms of the first licensed members of the board shall be  
10 as follows: One member for five, four, three, two, and one years  
11 respectively. Thereafter the terms shall be for five years and until  
12 their successors are appointed and qualified.

13 ~~((+3))~~ (c) The lay member shall be appointed by the governor for  
14 a five year term and until the lay member's successor is appointed.

15 ~~((+4))~~ (d) A member may be appointed to serve a second term, if  
16 that term does not run consecutively.

17 (e) Vacancies in the board shall be filled by the governor, the  
18 appointee to hold office for the remainder of the unexpired term.

19 ~~((+5))~~ (3) The licensed veterinarian technician member is a  
20 nonvoting member with respect to board decisions related to the  
21 discipline of a veterinarian involving standard of care.

22 (4) Officers of the board shall be a ~~((chairman))~~ chair and a  
23 secretary-treasurer to be chosen by the members of the board from among  
24 its members.

25 ~~((+6))~~ (5) Four members of the board shall constitute a quorum at  
26 meetings of the board.

27 **Sec. 4.** RCW 18.92.030 and 2000 c 93 s 10 are each amended to read  
28 as follows:

29 (1) The board shall develop and administer, or approve, or both, a  
30 licensure examination in the subjects determined by the board to be  
31 essential to the practice of veterinary medicine, surgery, and  
32 dentistry. The board may approve an examination prepared or  
33 administered by a private testing agency or association of licensing  
34 authorities.

35 (2) The board, under chapter 34.05 RCW, may adopt rules necessary  
36 to carry out the purposes of this chapter, including:

1        (a) Standards for the performance of the duties and  
2        responsibilities of veterinary technicians and veterinary medication  
3        clerks and fixing minimum standards of continuing education for  
4        veterinary technicians. The rules shall be adopted in the interest of  
5        good veterinary health care delivery to the consuming public and shall  
6        not prevent veterinary technicians from inoculating an animal(~~(.—The~~  
7        ~~board also has the power to adopt by rule)); and~~

8        (b) Standards prescribing requirements for veterinary medical  
9        facilities and fixing minimum standards of continuing veterinary  
10       medical education.

11       (3) The department is the board's official office of record.

12       **Sec. 5.** RCW 18.92.013 and 2000 c 93 s 8 are each amended to read  
13       as follows:

14       (1) A veterinarian legally prescribing drugs may delegate to a  
15       registered veterinary medication clerk or a (~~(registered))~~ licensed  
16       veterinary technician, while under the veterinarian's direct  
17       supervision, certain nondiscretionary functions defined by the board  
18       and used in the dispensing of legend and nonlegend drugs (except  
19       controlled substances as defined in or under chapter 69.50 RCW)  
20       associated with the practice of veterinary medicine. Upon final  
21       approval of the packaged prescription following a direct physical  
22       inspection of the packaged prescription for proper formulation,  
23       packaging, and labeling by the veterinarian, the veterinarian may  
24       delegate the delivery of the prescription to a registered veterinary  
25       medication clerk or (~~(registered))~~ licensed veterinary technician,  
26       while under the veterinarian's indirect supervision. Dispensing of  
27       drugs by veterinarians, registered (~~(veterinary))~~ licensed technicians,  
28       and registered veterinary medication clerks shall meet the applicable  
29       requirements of chapters 18.64, 69.40, 69.41, and 69.50 RCW and is  
30       subject to inspection by the board of pharmacy investigators.

31       (2) For the purposes of this section:

32       (a) "Direct supervision" means the veterinarian is on the premises  
33       and is quickly and easily available; and

34       (b) "Indirect supervision" means the veterinarian is not on the  
35       premises but has given written or oral instructions for the delegated  
36       task.

1       **Sec. 6.** RCW 18.92.140 and 2000 c 93 s 13 are each amended to read  
2 as follows:

3       Each person now qualified to practice veterinary medicine, surgery,  
4 and dentistry, (~~registered~~) licensed as a veterinary technician, or  
5 registered as a veterinary medication clerk in this state or who  
6 becomes licensed or registered to engage in practice shall comply with  
7 administrative procedures, administrative requirements, and fees  
8 determined as provided in RCW 43.70.250 and 43.70.280.

9       **Sec. 7.** RCW 18.92.145 and 2000 c 93 s 14 are each amended to read  
10 as follows:

11       Administrative procedures, administrative requirements, and fees  
12 shall be established as provided in RCW 43.70.250 and 43.70.280 for the  
13 issuance, renewal, or administration of the following licenses,  
14 certificates of registration, permits, duplicate licenses, renewals, or  
15 examination:

16       (1) For a license to practice veterinary medicine, surgery, and  
17 dentistry issued upon an examination given by the examining board;

18       (2) For a license to practice veterinary medicine, surgery, and  
19 dentistry issued upon the basis of a license issued in another state;

20       (3) For a (~~certificate of registration~~) license as a veterinary  
21 technician;

22       (4) For a certificate of registration as a veterinary medication  
23 clerk;

24       (5) For a temporary permit to practice veterinary medicine,  
25 surgery, and dentistry. The temporary permit fee shall be accompanied  
26 by the full amount of the examination fee; and

27       (6) For a license to practice specialized veterinary medicine.

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