



## State Legislative Update

April 2025

This issue of the State Legislative Update includes select summaries of bills and regulations tracked by the AVMA Division of State Advocacy and introduced in April. For more information, please contact Madeline Brezin, Assistant Director, AVMA Division of State Advocacy ([mbrezin@avma.org](mailto:mbrezin@avma.org)).

### **Scope of Practice**

**Tennessee** enacted [TN S.B. 128/TN H.B.0164](#), which allows a chiropractic physician to apply to the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners for certification to perform animal chiropractic upon meeting the education standards and other requirements established by the Board. It directs the Board to adopt rules outlining the practice of animal chiropractic, educational standards for certification, and health and sanitation standards for a facility where both animal and human chiropractic are performed. Educational standards must include obtaining a certificate in animal chiropractic from the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association, or a similar curriculum approved by the Board. The Board is also required to maintain a list of chiropractic physicians who are certified in good standing to perform animal chiropractic on its website. Chiropractic physicians who are certified to perform animal chiropractic must annually complete a minimum of six additional hours of continuing education in animal chiropractic that are approved by the Board.

### **Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR) | Telemedicine**

**North Dakota** enacted [ND S.B. 2129](#), which updates various provisions of the state's Veterinary Practice Act, including requiring a medically appropriate and timely in-person examination of the patient by the veterinarian, or by a timely in-person visit to the premises where the patient is managed or resides in order to establish a VCPR. It allows a veterinarian who in good faith engages in the practice of veterinary medicine by rendering emergency care to not be subject to penalty based solely on the inability to establish a VCPR.

### **Veterinary Professional Associate | Mid-Level Practitioner**

In **Colorado**, [CO HB25-1285](#) has passed both chambers and is awaiting action by the Governor. It would further outline parameters for the veterinary professional associate position in the state, including clarifying provisions around the VCPR, supervision requirements, veterinary professional associate qualifications, and requirements for mutual agreements between veterinary professional associates and supervising veterinarians. If this measure becomes law, there will be a more expanded summary in a future State Legislative Update.

**Other Bills and Regulations of Note:****Enacted/Finalized**

- **AR S.B. 342**: Allows someone who sustains a loss or damage to any of their domesticated animals by a dog to be awarded treble the damages for loss of the value of the loss or damage of the domesticated animal.
- **AR S.B. 550**: Renames the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission to the Arkansas Board of Animal Health and requires at most three of the nine members to be veterinarians consisting of a member from the following practice areas- poultry, large animal, and general practice.
- **AR H.B. 1740**: Exempts certificates of veterinary inspection and personal information obtained from or associated with any animal electronic identification tag from the State's Freedom of Information Act.
- **AR H.B. 1801**: Limits an outsourcing facility of legend drugs and controlled substances that compounds a product to selling a compounded product to only a specific list of entities, including an Arkansas-licensed healthcare provider, such as a physician or nurse practitioner, for administration to a patient in a medical clinic.
- **CA 3 CCR § 1303-1307**: Outlines requirements for the California Animal Blood Bank Program, including facility licensing and product registration, quarterly reporting, inspections, and fees. Effective 7/1/2025.
- **CO SB25-085**: Outlines adoption requirements for animals from research facilities in the state.
- **CO HB25-1137**: Creates a grant program to support trap-neuter-return initiatives for community cats.
- **FL H.B. 655**: Establishes a framework for pet insurance.
- **HI S.R. 172/HI H.R. 188/HI S.C.R. 192**: Requests that the University of Hawaii System establish a Veterinary Medicine Expansion Working Group to explore the feasibility of developing a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program at Windward Community College.
- **IN H.B. 1354**: Expands the state's licensure applicability provision for veterinarians to include registration and permits for veterinary technicians and outlines background check requirements.
- **IN H.B. 1490**: Outlines circumstances for the horse racing commission to issue a license for individuals who are not veterinarians who perform teeth floating on a licensed horse racetrack and the licensees' practice restrictions.
- **ME L.D. 765**: Adds veterinarians to the Maine Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program, including veterinarians who use telehealth in providing health care to prescribe controlled substances to patients located in the state.
- **MD S.B. 581/MD H.B. 438**: Increases the cap for compensatory damages that may be awarded to an owner of a pet from a person who tortiously causes an injury to or death of the pet from \$10,000 to \$25,000.
- **MT H.B. 78**: Establishes a framework for pet insurance.
- **MT H.B. 238**: Allows the Board of Veterinary Medicine to require an evaluation of the licensee or license applicant by an appropriate medical provider and outlines related requirements.

- **WA H.B. 1705**: Directs Washington State University's division of governmental studies and services to convene a work group to study and recommend strategies to recruit, train, and retain large animal veterinarians.

### **Filed/Introduced/ Proposed Animal Disease | Vaccination**

- **MA H. 4022**: Would establish a special commission to study the state's rabies vaccine laws.
- **MN S.F. 3456/MN H.F. 3219**: Would prohibit anyone from manufacturing, acquiring, possessing, or making accessible mRNA injections and products.
- **TX S.B. 1983/TX H.B. 3176**: Would prohibit the manufacture, sale, or distribution of a product developed through the use of mRNA material in the prevention or treatment of a disease.
- **VT S.R. 14**: Would urge the USDA and CDC to expedite an avian influenza vaccine national reserve and distribution system.

### **Education**

- **ND S.B. 2003**: Would outline requirements for written agreements for participants in the professional student exchange program, which includes veterinary medicine.

### **Emergency | First Responders**

- **PA S.B. 633**: Would require communications centers dispatching EMS resources to compile and maintain information regarding police animal care capabilities.

### **Euthanasia**

- **MO S.B. 66**: Would outline restrictions on methods of euthanasia.

### **Licensure**

- **12 AAC 68.230**: Would require that no less than two-thirds of continuing education be in medical areas of study and identify medical and non-medical subject areas of study approved for the purposes of continuing education requirements.

### **Livestock**

- **TX H.B. 3816**: Would prohibit administering a controlled substance listed in Penalty Group 1 to livestock, unless it is in compliance with a valid prescription or order of a health care practitioner in the course of professional practice.

### **Non-Economic Damages | Malpractice | Liability**

- **OH H.B. 240**: Would create a reporting requirement for veterinarians who have knowledge of a person being bitten or injured as a result of an attack by a dog or other non-human mammal.

### **Pharmaceuticals | Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs**

- **MA S. 1497/MA H. 2472**: Would create restrictions for compounded medications.
- **NY S.B. 7508/NY A.B. 4538**: Would require healthcare professionals in New York to prescribe opioid antagonists alongside opioids.

- **OH r. 4729:5-20-02**: Would allow a veterinarian to mail or provide delivery of a dangerous drug and outline requirements.

### **Research | Research Animals**

- **CA A.B. 1103**: Would require the state's Research Advisory Panel to review research projects that require the administration of Schedule I or Schedule II substances to human and animal research subjects.
- **MI S.B. 223**: Would require research facilities that use laboratory animals to submit an annual report and outline the required included information.
- **OR S.B. 181**: Would prohibit a research facility from using public funds to fund medically unnecessary laboratory research on dogs or cats classified under a pain and distress category D or E by the USDA, with exemptions.

### **Scope of Practice**

- **Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 4825.1 and 4827**: Would make changes to the practice of veterinary medicine exemptions.

### **Small Business**

- **AL H.B. 569**: Would prohibit boarding facilities or grooming facilities in the state from operating without a licensed veterinarian or licensed veterinary technician at the facility during business hours.

### **State Programs | Board of Veterinary Medicine**

- **FL S.B. 1452/FL H.B. 1461**: Would restructure the Department of Business and Professional Regulation and eliminate the Board of Veterinary Medicine and continuing education requirements.
- **WA H.B. 1985**: Would establish a framework for creating animal services districts.

### **Veterinary Technicians | Veterinary Assistants**

- **MO SB 38/MO S.B. 150/MO HB 419/MO H.B. 606**: Would give the board of governors of Missouri State University the power and authority to grant bachelor of science degrees in veterinary technology.
- **MO S.B. 61 & MO H.B. 478**: Would allow any person who has at least three years of work experience in an occupation or profession in another state and whose work experience involved the practice of an occupation or profession for which a license is not required in the jurisdiction in which the person worked but is required in this state, to submit an application for a one-time, nonrenewable, two-year temporary license.