



State Legislative Update

May 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 May. For more information, please contact Madeline Brezin, assistant director, AVMA Division of State Advocacy (mbrezin@avma.org).

Education

Georgia enacted GA S.B. 20, which empowers the State Veterinary Education Board to establish a committee, consisting of two or more members of the Board, which, to the extent provided by the board, has the authority of the Board in regard to the loan purchases. It allows the Board to purchase educational loans made to resident veterinarians practicing shelter medicine full-time or practicing full-time at a nonprofit pet sterilization clinic in this state who have also been in practice for less than ten years, sets a cap on loan purchases at \$75,000 per person and direct the Board to enter loan agreements with up to four applicants per year, funds permitting, and requires each selected applicant to enter into a contract with the Board for a term of three consecutive years agreeing to the terms and conditions upon which the loan purchase is granted.

Georgia also enacted GA H.B. 172, which makes changes to the state's existing student loan forgiveness program, including limiting loan repayment eligibility to those whose veterinary medicine practices include food animal specialties and have been practicing such specialties for ten years or less, increasing the max potential loan repayment amount to \$90,000 and increasing potential annual repayment amount to \$30,000, increasing eligible rural county size to under 50,000 people, requiring service for three consecutive years, and limiting full participation in this program to once per lifetime.

Maryland enacted MD S.B. 318/MD H.B. 643, which expands an existing program, the Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program, to include veterinarians and veterinary technicians. It requires veterinarians and veterinary technicians to be employed for five years in the state or volunteer for a minimum of 100 hours per year for three years at a qualifying animal shelter to be eligible.

Mid-level practitioner | Veterinary professional associate (VPA)

Colorado enacted CO HB25-1285, which further outlines parameters for the veterinary professional associate position in the state. It requires a VPA to have a master's degree in veterinary clinical care and pass a national credentialing exam. It requires the supervising veterinarian of a VPA to be located at the same veterinary premises unless the VPA meets indirect supervision requirements (meeting requisite clinical benchmarks, including practicing veterinary medicine under direct or immediate supervision for a specified number of hours as determined by the Colorado Board of Veterinary Medicine). It allows a supervising veterinarian to supervise no more than

three VPAs who are practicing veterinary medicine at a time. It allows a VPA to perform veterinary tasks that are not veterinary medicine under indirect supervision. Further, it clarifies that a veterinarian must establish a veterinarian-client-patient relationship before they delegate a task to a VPA and that an employer may not require a veterinarian to supervise a VPA as a condition of employment.

Telemedicine | Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR)

Georgia enacted GA S.B. 105, which creates a framework for veterinary telehealth practice in the state. It also allows very specific circumstances in which a licensed veterinarian may practice veterinary telemedicine, regardless of whether a VCPR exists, including that there is no licensed veterinarian or veterinary technician available within a 50-mile radius of the animal's location to perform a physical examination at a veterinary facility or the premises where the animal is located within 24 hours of the client's request for service and the licensed veterinarian or veterinary technician requests that, as soon as reasonably practical, the client present the animal patient for a physical examination at the veterinary facility or at the premises where such animal is located. This law will go into effect on July 1, 2025.

New Jersey introduced NJ S. 4454, which would codify existing regulations to stipulate the requirements for veterinarians to follow when engaging in telemedicine and telehealth. This bill would allow for a virtually established VCPR, outline disclosure and anti-fraud requirements for practitioners, and limit prescribing of Schedule II substances.

Other bills and regulations of note:

Enacted/Finalized

- **AL H.B. 366**: Allows emergency medical services personnel to provide emergency medical care to a police dog injured in the line of duty while at the scene of the injury or while the police dog is being transported to a veterinary clinic, veterinary hospital, or other similar facility if there is no individual that requires medical attention or transport at that time.
- **CT S.B. 1282**: Reduces the minimum quarantine period for animals exposed to rabies from six months to four months, and requires the animal to be vaccinated against rabies as soon as medically appropriate.
- **HI H.B. 544**: Creates a framework for pet insurance in the state.
- **IA S.F. 296**: Allows a certified emergency medical care provider to diagnose and treat severely injured police service dogs on duty, prioritizing human patients.
- **ME L.D. 528 (H.P. 347)**: Creates a framework for volunteer-certified rabies vaccinators in the state.
- **MN H.F. 2446**: Requires the Board of Veterinary Medicine to consult with veterinarians and submit recommendations on the prohibition of cat declawing.
- **MT H.B. 336**: Require a board or program to grant certain licenses, including veterinary technician licenses, to individuals who complete an approved apprenticeship program in the relevant occupation or profession.
- **NV A.B. 136**: Requires commercial establishments engaged in the business of selling access to live animals to interact with the public to conspicuously post specified notices with contact information for local animal control to report suspected cruelty and creates an exception for accredited institutional members of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

- **NH H.B. 267**: Includes in the state's exemptions from veterinary licensure requirements animal chiropractic practice by an individual with a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine or a Doctor of Chiropractic degree, and who has completed a nationally recognized animal chiropractic program as determined by the executive director and in consultation with the board of veterinary medicine and the board of chiropractic examiners.
- **VA H.B. 1600**: Appropriates funds to establish the Large Animal Veterinary Loan Repayment Program created by VA H.B. 2303.

Filed/Introduced/Proposed

Euthanasia

- **NV A.B. 381**: Would require, in certain counties, if an officer takes possession of an animal being treated cruelly and determines that immediate humane euthanasia of the animal may be necessary, a licensed veterinarian to examine the animal and recommend the humane euthanasia of the animal before they may proceed.

Licensure

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

Research | Research animals

- **OR H.B. 3978**: Would prohibit certain animal research, with an exception for procedures performed on a dog or cat for the purpose of veterinary education or clinical veterinary research

State programs | Boards of veterinary medicine

- **CA A.B. 1502**: Would make various changes to the state's Veterinary Practice Act as part of a sunset review, including changes to recordkeeping, disciplinary procedures, veterinary assistant controlled substance permitholders, and continuing education.