

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1099

By: Representative Vaught

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD TO PROMULGATE RULES REGARDING TELEHEALTH AND TELEMEDICINE AND TO ISSUE RESTRICTED LICENSES FOR VETERINARIANS; TO REPLACE REFERENCES TO THE SECRETARY-TREASURER AND THE EXECUTIVE SECERTARY OF THE VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AUTHORIZE THE VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD TO PROMULGATE RULES REGARDING TELEHEALTH AND TELEMEDICINE AND TO ISSUE RESTRICTED LICENSES FOR VETERINARIANS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-101-203(12), concerning the powers and duties of the Veterinary Medical Examining Board, is amended to read as follows:

(12) Promulgate rules:

(A) Limiting ~~limiting~~ the amount of Schedule II narcotics that may be prescribed and dispensed by licensees of the board; and
(B) Outlining the use of telehealth and telemedicine in the practice of veterinary medicine.



SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 17-101-304(a), concerning temporary permits for veterinarians, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The ~~Secretary-treasurer~~ Director of the Veterinary Medical Examining Board may issue without examination a temporary permit to practice veterinary medicine in this state to a qualified applicant for a license pending examination and provided that the temporary permit shall expire the day after the notice or results of the first examination given after the permit is issued.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 17-101-309(a)(2), concerning renewals and reinstatements of licenses by the Veterinary Medical Examining Board, is amended to read as follows:

(2) Not later than March 1 each year, the board shall ~~mail-a~~ provide a written notice to each licensed veterinarian, veterinary technician, and veterinary technologist that his or her license or certificate will expire on March 31 and shall provide a renewal application form.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 17-101-312(c), concerning civil penalties for violations of the provisions relating to the practice of veterinary medicine, is amended to read as follows:

(c) One-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of the sums assessed as fines under this chapter shall be paid into the general fund of the county wherein ~~it~~ the fine is assessed, and one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of the sums assessed as fines under this chapter shall be deposited with the ~~Secretary-treasurer~~ Director of the Veterinary Medical Examining Board and credited to the account of the Veterinary Medical Examining Board.

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 17-101-313 is amended to read as follows:
17-101-313. Abandoned animals.

(a) Unless otherwise provided by contract between the veterinarian and his or her client, a veterinarian may dispose of any animal abandoned in his or her care if he or she gives written notice of his or her intention to do so by ~~certified mail sent~~ sending the notice to the last known physical or email address of the client.

(b) The veterinarian ~~must~~ shall allow the client twelve (12) days from

the ~~mailing of the certified letter~~ issuance of the notice in which to retrieve the animal.

SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 17-101-314(a)(1)(A), concerning the penalties of the Veterinary Medical Examining Board for practicing without a license, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1)(A) If upon completion of an investigation the ~~Executive Secretary~~ Director of the Veterinary Medical Examining Board has probable cause to believe that a veterinarian or an unlicensed person acting as a veterinarian has violated the provisions of this chapter, he or she may issue a citation to the veterinarian or unlicensed person, as provided in this section.

SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 17-101-314(b), concerning the penalties of the Veterinary Medical Examining Board for practicing without a license, is amended to read as follows:

(b) Before any citation may be issued, the ~~executive secretary~~ director shall submit the alleged violation for review to at least one (1) member of the board.

SECTION 8. Arkansas Code Title 17, Chapter 101, Subchapter 3, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

17-101-318. Veterinarians – Restricted license.

(a) The Director of the Veterinary Medical Examining Board may issue a restricted license to a person who has graduated from an accredited or approved college of veterinary medicine but has not passed the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination, or its future equivalent, to engage in the practice of veterinary medicine under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

(b) A restricted license shall be issued by the Veterinary Medical Examining Board upon the receipt of the following:

(1) A completed application as described in § 17-101-301 and the application fee established by the board, if not previously submitted during the applicant's final year of veterinary school;

(2) A restricted license fee established by the board;

(3) A letter of recommendation from the supervising licensed

veterinarian; and

(4) Written confirmation that the applicant is scheduled to take the next available North American Veterinary Licensing Examination, or its future equivalent.

(c) If the applicant fails to pass the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination, or its future equivalent, after receiving a restricted license, the applicant may be issued another restricted license by submitting the following:

(1) The restricted license fee established by the board;

(2) A letter of recommendation from the supervising licensed veterinarian; and

(3) Written confirmation that the applicant is scheduled to take the next available North American Veterinary Licensing Examination, or its future equivalent.

(d)(1) A restricted license shall expire the day after the results of the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination, or its future equivalent, are made known to the applicant.

(2) An applicant shall not be issued more than three (3) restricted licenses.

(e) The applicant is eligible for an unrestricted license to practice veterinary medicine upon receiving a passing score on the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination, or its future equivalent, if all other requirements are met for the unrestricted license.

(f) A restricted licensee shall not apply:

(1) For a United States Drug Enforcement Administration registration; or

(2) To become an accredited veterinarian through the United States Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

APPROVED: 2/23/21