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S.F. No. 1522 - Veterinary technicians, the practice of veterinary technology and unlicensed veterinary employees regulation

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Bill Overview

S.F. 1522 establishes licensure and related practice requirements for veterinary technicians. The bill defines “veterinary technology” as “the science and practice of providing professional support to veterinarians, including the direct supervision of unlicensed veterinary employees.” S.F. 1522 further details application requirements for new applicants, as well as for individuals credentialed in other jurisdictions interested in transferring to Minnesota. The bill further authorizes the Board of Veterinary Medicine to adopt licensure requirements and definitions by rule.

Section Summaries

Section 1 (adds Minn. Stat. § 156.001, subd. 5a) This section creates a definition of “direct supervision” for purposes of the state’s chapter on the practice of veterinary medicine. As part of this definition, a supervising veterinarian or licensed veterinary technician must be in the immediate area and within audible or visual range of an animal and the unlicensed veterinary employee treating the animal.

Section 2 (adds Minn. Stat. § 156.001, subd. 7a) This section creates a definition of “licensed veterinary technician” for purposes of the state’s chapter on the practice of veterinary medicine.

Section 3 (adds Minn. Stat. § 156.001, subd. 10b) This section creates a definition of “remote supervision” for purposes of the state’s chapter on the practice of veterinary medicine.

Section 4 (adds Minn. Stat. § 156.001, subd. 12) This section creates a definition of “veterinary technology” for purposes of the state’s chapter on the practice of veterinary medicine. This term is

defined to mean “the science and practice of providing professional support to veterinarians, including the direct supervision of unlicensed veterinary employees.” The definition further expressly excludes veterinary diagnosis, prognosis, surgery, and medication prescription.

Section 5 (amends Minn. Stat. § 156.07) This section makes conforming changes to the section governing veterinary medicine license renewal to incorporate references to veterinary technicians and veterinary technology practice.

Section 6 (adds Minn. Stat. § 156.076) This section requires unlicensed veterinary employees to be under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian or licensed veterinary technician when administering medication or rendering auxiliary or supporting assistance. The section further clarifies that the section does not prohibit such action by unlicensed and unsupervised veterinary employees for certain generalized nursing tasks and emergency situations.

Section 7 (adds Minn. Stat. § 156.077) This section requires the Board of Veterinary Medicine to license veterinary technicians that satisfy certain requirements, including but not limited to, the following: is at least 18 years old; has graduated from an accredited or approved veterinary technology program; passed the Veterinary Technician National Examination; completed a background check; and meets other rules imposed by the board. This section further authorizes a licensed veterinary technician to practice veterinary technology, and prohibits an unlicensed person from using the title “veterinary technician” or the abbreviation “LVT.” Subdivision 3 of this section details application requirements, and subdivision 4 provides for alternative requirements for licensure for applications submitted before July 1, 2030, based in part on recent experience in the practice of veterinary technology.

Section 8 (adds Minn. Stat. § 156.078) This section sets forth licensure application requirements for credentialed veterinary technicians, duly admitted to practice in the United States or Canada, who desire to transfer their licensure to practice veterinary technology in Minnesota.

Section 9 (Effective Date) This section provides that the act is effective July 1, 2025.