

Proposal Summary/ Overview

To be completed by proposal sponsor. (500 Word Count Limit for this page)

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Is this proposal regarding:

- *New or increased regulation of an existing profession/occupation? If so, complete this form, Questionnaire A.*
- *Increased scope of practice or decreased regulation of an existing profession? If so, complete Questionnaire B.*
- *Any other change to regulation or scope of practice? If so, please contact the Committee Administrator to discuss how to proceed.*

1) State the profession/occupation that is the subject of the proposal.

Veterinary Medicine

2) Briefly describe the proposed change.

Allow the University to hire qualified veterinary faculty, residents, and interns from colleges of veterinary medicine not accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education (i.e. highly reputable international colleges of veterinary medicine).

3) If the proposal has been introduced, provide the bill number and names of House and Senate sponsors. If the proposal has not been introduced, indicate whether legislative sponsors have been identified. If the bill has been proposed in previous sessions, please list previous bill numbers and years of introduction.

Yes, the bill has been introduced in the House by Rep. John Huot (HF 1817) and in the Senate by Sen. Rob Kupec (SF 1773)

4) Given the press of business in the 2023 legislative session it is unlikely that health licensing and scope of practice bills will be taken up this year. If there is an urgent need that this bill be heard this year, please explain the urgency.

There is a critical workforce shortage in the veterinary profession and the number of unfilled veterinary faculty positions in the U.S. has doubled over the past decade (from 200 to 400). At the same time, veterinary school enrollment has increased to meet the workforce demands. The University of Minnesota has more than 12 unfilled faculty positions in critical areas, limiting our ability to teach, provide clinical service to the state's animals and animal owners, and perform important diagnostic testing and research.

Questionnaire A: New or increased regulation (adapted from Mn Stat 214.002 subd 2 and MDH Scope of Practice Tools)

This questionnaire is intended to help legislative committees decide which proposals for new or increased regulation of health professions should receive a hearing and advance through the legislative process. It is also intended to alert the public to these proposals and to narrow the issues for hearing.

This form must be completed by the sponsor of the legislative proposal. The completed form will be posted on the committee's public web page. At any time before the bill is heard in committee, opponents may respond in writing with concerns, questions, or opposition to the information stated and these documents will also be posted. The Chair may request that the sponsor respond in writing to any concerns raised before a hearing will be scheduled.

A response is not required for questions which do not pertain to the profession/occupation (indicate "not applicable"). Please be concise. Refer to supporting evidence and provide citation to the source of the information where appropriate.

New or increased regulation of health professions is governed by Mn State 214. Please read and be familiar with those provisions before submitting this form.

While it is often impossible to reach complete agreement with all interested parties, sponsors are advised to try to understand and to address the concerns of any opponents before submitting the form.

1) Who does the proposal impact?

- a. Define the occupations, practices, or practitioners who are the subject of this proposal.

Veterinary faculty, residents and interns employed by the University of Minnesota.

- b. List any associations or other groups representing the occupation seeking regulation and the approximate number of members of each in Minnesota

The approximately 125 University of Minnesota veterinary faculty, residents and interns are members of the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association, and are licensed by the Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine.

- c. Describe the work settings, and conditions for practitioners of the occupation, including any special geographic areas or populations frequently served.

University of Minnesota veterinary faculty, residents and interns generally work on campus—teaching students, seeing patients, and conducting research. Occasionally, they lead clinical rotations throughout the state as part of veterinary student education and training.

- d. Describe the work duties or functions typically performed by members of this occupational group and whether they are the same or similar to those performed by any other occupational groups.

University of Minnesota veterinary faculty, residents and interns teach students, see patients, and conduct research. Their teaching and research functions are unique within Minnesota.

2) Specialized training, education, or experience (“preparation”) required to engage in the occupation

- a. What preparation is required to engage in the occupation? How have current practitioners acquired that preparation?
- b. Would the proposed regulation change the way practitioners become prepared? If so, why and how? Include any change in the cost of entry to the occupation. Who would bear these costs?

The proposed legislation would allow the University of Minnesota to hire highly qualified veterinary faculty, residents and interns who graduated from veterinary programs that are not accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education.

- c. Is there an existing model of this change being implemented in another state? Please list state, originating bill and year of passage?

Numerous other states allow their veterinary programs to consider graduates from unaccredited schools, which puts the University of Minnesota at a disadvantage.

- d. If current practitioners in Minnesota lack any training, education, experience, or credential that would be required under the new regulation, how does the proposal address that lack?

This legislation would not impact current practitioners.

- e. Would new entrants into the occupation be required to provide evidence of preparation or be required to pass an examination? If not, please explain why not. Would current practitioners be required to provide such evidence? If not, why not?

3) Supervision of practitioners

- a. How are practitioners of the occupation currently supervised, including any supervision within regulated institution or by a regulated health professional? How would the proposal change the provision of supervision?

No changes to existing supervisory practices or procedures are anticipated. The University of Minnesota would continue to hold all veterinary faculty, residents, and interns to the same high standards of professional conduct.

- b. Does a regulatory entity currently exist or does the proposal create a regulatory entity? What is the proposed scope of authority of the entity? (For example, will it have authority to develop rules, determine standards for education and training, assess practitioners' competence levels?) Has the proposed change been discussed with the current regulatory authority? If so, please list participants and date.

The Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine holds the authority to license University of Minnesota faculty, residents and interns who practice medicine. A formal presentation was made to the Board in February 2023, and discussions with the Board are ongoing. Changes were made to the Senate version of this bill during the 2023 session that satisfied any concerns by the Board of Veterinary Medicine.

- c. Do provisions exist to ensure that practitioners maintain competency? Describe any proposed change.

The University of Minnesota would continue to hold all veterinary faculty, residents, and interns to the same high standards of professional conduct.

4) Level of regulation (See Mn Stat 214.001, subd. 2, declaring that “no regulations shall be imposed upon any occupation unless required for the safety and well-being of the citizens of the state.” The harm must be “recognizable, and not remote.” Ibid.)

- a. Describe the harm to the public posed by the unregulated practice of the occupation or by the continued practice at its current degree of regulation.

This bill does not look to change the current degree of regulation, other than to allow the University of Minnesota the ability to hire more qualified faculty.

The University of Minnesota would continue to hold all veterinary faculty, residents, and interns to the same high standards of professional conduct.

- b. Explain why existing civil or criminal laws or procedures are inadequate to prevent or remedy any harm to the public.

Existing civil or criminal laws or procedures can still be used to prevent or remedy any harm to the public.

- c. Explain why the proposed level of regulation has been selected and why a lower level of regulation was not selected.

5) Implications for Health Care Access, Cost, Quality, and Transformation

- a. Describe how the proposal will affect the availability, accessibility, cost, delivery, and quality of health care, including the impact on unmet health care needs and underserved populations. How does the proposal contribute to meeting these needs?

The proposed legislation will assist the University of Minnesota to hire veterinary faculty, residents, and interns into difficult-to-fill positions. Completing these hires will allow the University to provide a higher quality and more well-rounded education with greater efficiency and effectiveness.

- b. Describe the expected impact of the proposal on the supply of practitioners and on the cost of services or goods provided by the occupation. If possible, include the geographic availability of proposed providers/services. Cite any sources used.

If the University of Minnesota can fill these positions, Minnesota will benefit from greater depth of specialized veterinary medical care.

- c. Does the proposal change how and by whom the services are compensated? What costs and what savings would accrue to patients, insurers, providers, and employers?

No changes are anticipated.

- d. Describe any impact of the proposal on an evolving health care delivery and payment system (e.g., collaborative practice, innovations in technology, ensuring cultural competency, value-based payments)?

The University anticipates that many of the new hires will be foreign born, which will improve the cultural competency of our graduates.

- e. What is the expected regulatory cost to state government? Is there an up-to-date fiscal note for the proposal? How are the costs covered under the proposal?

There is no expected regulatory cost or savings expected to state government. A fiscal note was completed last year showing no fiscal impact.

6) Evaluation/Reports

Describe any plans to evaluate and report on the impact of the proposal if it becomes law, including focus and timeline. List the evaluating agency and frequency of reviews.

The College of Veterinary Medicine could report any impact of the new law as requested by the Legislature. This report could be submitted to the Board of Veterinary Medicine and/or Legislative committees with jurisdiction.

7) Support for and opposition to the proposal

- a. What organizations are sponsoring the proposal? How many members do these organizations represent in Minnesota?

This bill is supported by the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association.

- b. List organizations, including professional, regulatory boards, consumer advocacy groups, and others, who support the proposal.

There are no other groups with a position on this bill that we are aware of. The Board of Veterinary Medicine is neutral to the change.

- c. List any organizations, including professional, regulatory boards, consumer advocacy groups, and others, who have indicated concerns/opposition to the proposal or who are likely to have concerns/opposition. Explain the concerns/opposition of each, as the sponsor understands it.

There are no groups in opposition that we are aware of.

- d. What actions has the sponsor taken to minimize or resolve disagreement with those opposing or likely to oppose the proposal?

Not applicable at this time.