Proposed Bylaws Amendment #4—2014
Regular Annual Session

Submitted by
Executive Board

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

A. Amend Bylaws ARTICLE VII, Section 2

Present and Proposed Wording
(deletions are struckthrough; additions are underlined)

Section 2. Composition. The House of Delegates shall consist of twenty (24) delegates ("Delegate") and one (1) alternate delegate ("Alternate Delegate") appointed by from the following veterinary organizations, elected or designated in accordance with this section:

1. Each of the Principal Veterinary Organizations (as defined in Article VII, Section 3);
2. Each of the Constituent Allied Veterinary Organizations (as defined in Article VII, Section 4);
3. The Uniformed Services Organization (as defined in Article VII, Section 5); and
4. The Student American Veterinary Medical Association (as defined in Article VII, Section 6).

Additionally, all of the Association’s officers and members of the Executive Board shall be ex-officio members, without the right to vote, of the House of Delegates.

b. Delegates

1. Elected Delegate. For each Principal Veterinary Organization, one (1) Delegate shall be elected by the voting members of the Association that reside in the state, district, territory, or possession of the United States represented by that Principal Veterinary Organization. For each Constituent Allied Veterinary Organization, one (1) Delegate shall be elected by the voting members of the Association that are also members of the respective Constituent Allied Veterinary Organization.

2. Designated Delegate. Each Principal and Constituent Allied Veterinary Organization shall designate one (1) Delegate to the House of Delegates through a method of its choice, including election or appointment. The Student American Veterinary Medical Association and the Uniformed Services Organization shall each designate two Delegates to the House of Delegates.

B. Amend Bylaws ARTICLE VII, Section 7

Present and Proposed Wording
(deletions are struckthrough; additions are underlined)

Section 7. Qualifications for Delegates and Alternate Delegates. All Delegates and Alternate Delegates must either be voting members of the Association. Delegates from or members of the Student American Veterinary Medical Association must be members of that association. The Association’s Officers and Executive Board members may not concurrently serve as Delegates or Alternate Delegates on behalf of any veterinary organization represented in the House of Delegates.

C. Amend Bylaws ARTICLE VII, Section 8

Present and Proposed Wording
(deletions are struckthrough; additions are underlined)

Section 8. Official Roster Appointment of Delegates and Alternate Delegates. All organizations entitled to representation in the House of Delegates shall submit the names of their designated Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the House of Delegates pursuant to Article VII, Section 2(c) by October 1 of each year.
D. Amend Bylaws ARTICLE VII, Section 9

Present and Proposed Wording
(deletions are struckthrough; additions are underlined)

Section 9. Terms for Delegates and Alternate Delegates. Delegates and Alternate Delegates shall serve a four (4) year term or until their successors are elected or designated, or until such time as their successors are appointed and take their position, subject to such term limits as may be imposed by the House of Delegates. Delegates may serve no more than two (2) consecutive four (4) year terms. This term limit shall not apply to any Constituent Allied Organization when its designated Delegate concurrently serves as executive director or in an equivalent staff position. Fulfilling an unexpired term of two (2) years or less shall not be considered a full term and shall not apply toward the term limit.

E. Amend Bylaws ARTICLE VII, Section 11

Present and Proposed Wording
(additions are underlined)

Section 11. Special Sessions. Special sessions of the House of Delegates may be called (i) by the Chair of the House Advisory Committee, provided such request must be presented during a session of the House of Delegates, include the specific purpose for such special session, and be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Delegates or (ii) upon written petition presented to the Secretary by at least one Delegate in a majority of the organizations represented in the House of Delegates stating the place, time, and purpose for which such session is requested, provided, however, such request must be made at least sixty (60) days prior to the date specified in the request for such special session. Business conducted at any special session shall be limited to the specific purpose stated in the request for such session, and any such additional business as requested by either the Executive Board or the House Advisory Committee.

F. Amend Bylaws ARTICLE VII, Section 13

Present and Proposed Wording
(deletions are struckthrough; additions are underlined)

Section 13. Quorum. The presence of 59% of forty (40) Delegates shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any duly called session of the House of Delegates, provided that when less than a quorum is present at said session, a majority of the Delegates present may adjourn the session to another time without further notice.

G. Amend Bylaws ARTICLE VII, Section 15

Present and Proposed Wording
(deletions are struckthrough; additions are underlined)

Section 15. Voting Rights. Each Delegate veterinary organization represented in the House of Delegates shall have one two (12) votes on matters submitted to a vote of the House of Delegates, provided, however, each Principal Veterinary Organization shall have such additional votes equal to the total number of Association members residing in the state, territory, or possession represented by such organization divided by one hundred fifty (150) (the quotient shall be rounded up as necessary). The total number of additional votes for each Principal Veterinary Organization shall be divided equally between the two Delegates from such organizations.
H. Amend Bylaws ARTICLE VII, Section 16

Present and Proposed Wording
(deletions are struckthrough; additions are underlined)

Section 16. Attendance/Exercise of Voting Rights. All Delegates and Alternate Delegates shall have the right to attend and vote at all sessions of the House of Delegates. Only Delegates shall have the right to vote on behalf of the veterinary organization that they represent. Alternate Delegates shall have no right to vote; however, in the event the Delegate appointed to represent a particular veterinary organization is absent at any session of the House of Delegates, the Alternate Delegate appointed to represent such organization shall have the right to vote in place of the Delegate.

I. Amend Bylaws ARTICLE VII, Section 17

Present and Proposed Wording
(deletions are struckthrough; additions are underlined)

Section 17. Resignation and Removal of Delegates and Alternate Delegates. Any Delegate or Alternate Delegate may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Secretary. In addition, any Delegate designated by an organization or Alternate Delegate may be removed by the organization entitled to appoint that designated such Delegate, whenever, in its judgment, the best interests of the Association would be served by such removal. Any elected Delegate may be removed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the persons entitled to elect such Delegate, whenever, in their judgment, the best interests of the Association would be served by such removal.

J. Amend Bylaws ARTICLE VII, Section 18

Present and Proposed Wording
(deletions are struckthrough; additions are underlined)

Section 18. Vacancies. In the event of the death, resignation, removal, or incapacity of a Delegate or Alternate Delegate, the veterinary organization that designated represented by such Delegate or Alternate Delegate shall name a qualified member to serve until the conclusion of such Delegate or Alternate Delegate’s term. In the event of the death, resignation, removal, or incapacity of an elected Delegate, the voting members of the Association responsible for electing such Delegate shall fill the vacancy with a qualified member in accordance with Article VII, Section 2, who shall serve until the conclusion of such Delegate’s term.

K. Amend Bylaws ARTICLE VII, Section 19

Present and Proposed Wording
(deletions are struckthrough)

Section 19. House Advisory Committee. The House Advisory Committee shall consist of an aggregate of seven (7) Delegates and Alternate Delegates elected by the House of Delegates at its annual session.
L. Amend Bylaws ARTICLE VIII, Section 2.a.

Present and Proposed Wording
(additions are underlined)

Section 2. Councils.
a. Judicial Council
   1. Composition. The Judicial Council shall consist of five voting members of the Association. The Executive Vice President, or his or her designee, shall be the secretary of the Judicial Council.
   2. Responsibility. The Judicial Council shall:
      i. Investigate all matters concerning allegations of unethical conduct on behalf of members of the Association and take action regarding disciplinary action and dismissal of members in accordance with the Association’s Rules of Disciplinary Procedures, as may be amended by the Executive Board;
      ii. Advise on all questions of veterinary medical ethics;
      iii. Advise on all questions relating to interpretation of the Bylaws; and
      iv. Investigate violations of Association election and campaign rules; and
      iv. Investigate general professional conditions and all matters pertaining to the relations of veterinarians to one another or to the public and make such recommendations to the Executive Board, House of Delegates, or the organizations represented in the House of Delegates as it deems necessary.

Statement about the Bylaws Amendment

If approved, the proposed Bylaws amendments would provide AVMA members with an opportunity to elect approximately one-half of the delegates—the remaining delegates would continue to be designated by principal and constituent allied veterinary organizations. Specifically the amendments would accomplish the following:

• The House would be composed of two delegates from each state and constituent allied organization. One delegate would be elected by AVMA members in the respective state or allied organization through an election conducted by AVMA. One delegate would be designated by the state or allied organization through a method of its choice and under its own process. The "weighted vote" for each state/entity would be divided equally between the two delegates.

• Delegates would be eligible to serve no more than two consecutive four-year terms. They could serve more than two terms in their lifetime, provided that there are no more than two consecutive terms. The HOD term limit would not apply to executive directors of allied constituent organizations who may be serving as designated delegates, but those individuals would still be required to be voting members of the Association.

These proposed amendments do not address other governance issues, such as election of officers, new positions on the Executive Board/Board of Directors, committee/council restructure, or creation of a nominating entity. These issues will be continued to be discussed in the future.

The cost estimate for implementation is $3,287 to $8,029 per year dependent on the vendor selected.

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