CONSTITUENT ALLIED VETERINARY ORGANIZATIONS

Amend Bylaws ARTICLE VII, Section 4. Constituent Allied Veterinary Organizations

Present and Proposed Wording
(deletions are struck through; additions are underlined)

Section 4. Constituent Allied Veterinary Organizations.

a. Requirements. Constituent Allied Veterinary Organizations are organizations of veterinarians with specific vocational interests allied to the interests of the Association that meet the following requirements:

1. Have a national scope of operation;
2. Represent a broad field of veterinary activity;
3. Have a constitution and/or bylaws that does not conflict with the Association’s Bylaws;
4. Be oriented to some phase of professional veterinary activity, but is not a local or regional organization;
5. Not be a specialty organization recognized by the Association;
6. An organization seeking consideration for representation as a Constituent Allied Veterinary Organization must include among its voting membership at least one percent (1%) of all voting members of the Association, and at least ninety percent (90%) of that organization’s voting membership must be voting members of the Association; and, The number of AVMA voting members for a calendar year shall be calculated as of the date of March 31 of that year;
7. If an organization has been continuously represented in the House of Delegates since July 8, 1995: (i) its U.S. resident voting membership must include a minimum of three hundred (300) members of the Association, and at least eighty-five percent (85%) of all of its U.S. resident voting membership must be voting members of the Association; or (ii) at least five hundred (500) of its U.S. resident voting members must be voting members of the Association; or
8. If an organization’s application for representation in the House of Delegates as a Constituent Allied Veterinary Organization was accepted any time after July 8, 1995, at least one percent (1%) of all voting members of the Association must be voting members of that organization, and at least eighty-five percent (85%) of that organization’s U.S. resident voting membership must be voting members of the Association.

(See C1,2, below)

b. Application for Recognition as a Constituent Allied Veterinary Organization. The Board of Directors, or its designee(s), shall adopt an application form and procedures to facilitate the consideration of applicants seeking representation in the House of Delegates as Constituent Allied Veterinary Organizations. All applicants must complete the application form and submit the application, along with the designated fee, if any, to the administrative office of the Association. The Board of Directors, or its designee(s), shall (i) review the application of all applicants and determine, on the basis of the criteria set forth in these Bylaws and such other guidelines as the House of Delegates may prescribe, if individual applicants meet the qualifications necessary for recognition as a Constituent Allied Veterinary Organization and (ii) make a recommendation to the House of Delegates regarding admission of such applicants to the House of Delegates.
c. Obligation to Maintain Status. Constituent Allied Veterinary Organizations must continue to meet the requirements set forth in Article VII, Section 4(a), with the exception of Section 4(a)(6) as noted below, to maintain their status as a Constituent Allied Veterinary Organization and retain their right to representation in the House of Delegates. If the organization is unable to maintain such requirements as of July 1 of each year, the Executive Vice President, or his or her designee, shall notify the organization that it has one year from the end of the summer session of the House of Delegates to meet the eligibility requirements to maintain status described in this section. If the organization does not demonstrate compliance to maintain status by the beginning of the following summer session, it will lose its representation in the House of Delegates. With respect to the requirement regarding voting members of the AVMA set forth in Article VII, Section 4(a)(6), the following requirements shall apply for purposes of maintaining status in the House of Delegates:

1. If an organization has been continuously represented in the House of Delegates since July 8, 1995: (i) its U.S. resident voting membership must include a minimum of three hundred (300) voting members of the Association, and at least eighty-five percent (85%) of all of its U.S. resident voting membership must be voting members of the Association or (ii) at least five hundred (500) of its U.S. resident voting members must be voting members of the Association; or

2. If an organization’s application for representation in the House of Delegates as a Constituent Allied Veterinary Organization was accepted any time after July 8, 1995, a number equal to at least one percent (1%) of all voting members of the Association at the time the organization was admitted to admission the House of Delegates must be voting members of that organization, and at least eighty-five percent (85%) of that organization’s U.S. resident voting membership must be voting members of the Association.

(See A7, 8 above)

Obligation to Maintain Status. Constituent Allied Veterinary Organizations must continue to meet the requirements set forth in Article VII, Section 4(a) to maintain their status as a Constituent Allied Veterinary Organization and retain their right to representation in the House of Delegates.

Statement about the Bylaws Amendment

The proposed Bylaw amendment is an effort to recognize that the number of AVMA members continues to increase annually, which, under the current Bylaws, makes it increasingly difficult for constituent allied veterinary organizations to continue to meet membership eligibility requirements to maintain their status in the House of Delegates. The amendments proposed above are an attempt to recognize that allied veterinary organization membership may not increase at the same rate as the AVMA, while providing current members the opportunity to remain seated in the House of Delegates. A “clean” unedited version of the proposed Bylaw amendment is attached for clarity.
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