



AVMA State Legislative Update: 2020 Annual Report

While 2020 presented a unique set of challenges in the face of a global pandemic, the collaboration between the AVMA, state, and allied veterinary medical associations in advocating for the best interests of the profession remained strong.

As a service to assist associations in tracking current and emerging policy trends important to veterinary medicine, the AVMA Division of State Advocacy sent more than 1,100 legislative and regulatory alerts in 2020 to state and allied veterinary medical associations. The legislation covered an array of topics, including animal abuse, courtroom animal advocates, business liability, non-economic damages, pharmaceutical issues, scope of practice, VCPR, telemedicine, and vaccinations.

Animal abuse reporting

A new law in **Kentucky** [KY SB 21](#) requires veterinarians to report animal abuse and provides immunity for good faith reporting. Similar legislation failed sine die in **Hawaii** [HI SB 2985](#), [HI HB 2528](#), [HI HB 2453](#), [HI HB 2130](#). Additionally, legislation failed in Florida [FL HB 621](#) that would have required a veterinarian to report knowledge or suspicion of animal cruelty to law enforcement within 48 hours, and legislation considered in **Iowa** would have provided immunity to veterinarians in animal abuse investigations [IA SF 2029](#).

Animal advocates and the courts

In January 2020, **Maine** enacted [ME LD 1442](#) to allow a court to appoint law students or volunteer lawyers to advocate for an animal. The new law applies the *in the interest of justice* standard in animal cruelty proceedings and allows for an advocate's review of veterinarians' records.

None of the other states that considered bills dealing with courtroom animal advocates enacted legislation. Bills failed in **California** [CA AB 2645](#), **Florida** [FL SB 1048](#), **Illinois** [IL HB 5530](#), **New Hampshire** [NH HB 1164](#), **New Jersey** [NJ A 4533](#), **New York** [NY A 702](#) and **Rhode Island** [RI HB 7912](#) / [RI S 2698](#).

In 2021, the AVMA will keep a close eye on whether legislation allows for a court to appoint an advocate utilizing the legal standard of *in the interests of the animal* involved versus the standard of *the interests of justice*. *In the interest of the animal* is a different legal standard than *in the interest of justice*, and they have very different implications. *In the interest of justice* includes notions of fairness, societal interests for the humane treatment of animals, and the interest of the owner, while *in the interest of the animal* is an attempt to require courts to apply the same types of standards as they would for a child.

Animal Drug Compounding

Animal drug compounding is necessary for veterinary medicine to provide individualized medication for patients with special needs. Most states allow veterinarians to maintain compounded preparations in their office, but a few are still without access. **New Mexico's** Board of Pharmacy proposed a rule [NMAC 16.19.30](#) to address this need. The regulation will allow a licensed pharmacy to compound non-sterile, non-controlled substance preparations for veterinarian office use. The regulation will also allow up to a five days' supply to be dispensed for use in a single course of treatment from the office use preparation by a veterinarian for a patient when the patient has an emergency condition that the compounded drug is necessary to treat and timely access to a compounding pharmacy is not available. For more information on animal drug compounding, visit AVMA's resource page [here](#).

Cannabis | Hemp | Marijuana

As the legalization of marijuana gains wider acceptance across the country, state legislatures have been considering its medicinal use by veterinarians in companion animals. [MI HB 5085](#) takes effect April 1, 2021, in **Michigan** to allow veterinarians to consult with animal owners on the use of marijuana or industrial hemp for their pets. Legislation was considered but not passed in **Rhode Island** [RI H 7808](#) that would have made pets eligible to use medical marijuana if certified by a licensed veterinarian. A finalized **Florida** regulation [FL D-Aq & CS 5E-3.003](#) now provides for the regulation of hemp products, including pet treats and by-products used in animal feed. **West Virginia** is considering a similar regulation [WV ID 61-30](#) that has yet to be finalized. For more information on cannabis use and pets, visit AVMA's resource page [here](#).

COVID-19 | Business Liability

As states grappled with the devastating effects of COVID-19, many looked for ways to quickly reopen their economies and a major point of concern was business liability. **Alabama** [AL Proc. 5/8/20](#), **North Carolina** [NC SB 704](#), **Oklahoma** [OK SB 1946](#), **Utah** [UT SB 3007](#), and **Wyoming** [WY SF 1002](#) legislatures all passed legislation or signed proclamations to limit liability due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The majority of these states involved health care workers and essential employees but there was, and continues to be, a growing push to include all businesses acting in good faith.

Alaska's [AK SB 241](#) prohibits licensing fees during the COVID-19 pandemic and permits expedited licenses to individuals who hold a corresponding license in good standing in another jurisdiction to the extent necessary to respond to the public health disaster emergency. The licensing board is also able to temporarily waive or modify the continuing education requirements required for licensees to renew a professional license in the calendar year 2020.

The **District of Columbia** passed the "COVID-19 Response Emergency Amendment Act of 2020" to bring relief to small businesses operating in the District. [DC B 23-0718](#) empowers the Mayor upon declaration of a public health emergency, to issue a grant or loan to an eligible small business, including veterinary practices, that demonstrates financial distress caused by a reduction in business revenue due to the public health emergency "on an emergency basis." Grants can be used for any of the following: employee wages and benefits associated with

employment, including health insurance; operating business costs including taxes and debt service; and repayment of loans obtained through the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Idaho enacted [ID HB 6](#) to provide limited liability for businesses, cities, counties, and schools if they were taking steps to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. The enactment of **Louisiana's** [LA HB 70](#) added veterinary service staff to the list of essential critical infrastructure jobs.

Education

Colorado enacted [CO HB 20-1002](#), which could have implications for veterinary assistants and technicians. The new law requires a plan be implemented for determining and awarding academic credit for postsecondary education based on work-related experience. "Work-related experience" is defined as any experience acquired within the past 10 years through paid or unpaid employment, including but not limited to self-employment, an internship, a residency, a pre-apprenticeship program, or an apprenticeship program, that may lead to or result in a business credential, an industry credential, a technical certificate or a professional license.

Indiana's [IN HB 1007](#) provides \$73 million for the construction of the College of Veterinary Medicine Teaching Hospital at Purdue University in West Lafayette. The new hospital will consist of small and large animal facilities, including a new equine hospital and farm animal hospital.

Iowa enacted [IA SF 2398](#), which was crafted by the **Iowa Veterinary Medical Association**, to establish a rural veterinarian loan repayment program for no fewer than five veterinary students or licensed veterinarians annually. In exchange for up to \$15,000 in student loan repayment for each year of the contract, participating veterinarians would agree to practice food supply medicine for four years in designated geographic areas.

The **Ohio Veterinary Medical Association** successfully championed [OH HB 67](#), which provides loan repayment assistance for veterinarians who provide charitable services. Veterinarians are eligible to enter a lottery system to receive no less than \$5,000 but no more than \$10,000 per calendar year. Participants must provide no less than 12 hours of charitable veterinarian services including spay and neuter in conjunction with a nonprofit organization, a humane society, a law enforcement agency, or a state, local, or federal government entity. The rules will be established by the Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board and the new program will be funded by money transferred from the occupational licensing and regulatory fund, money received from gifts, donations, and bequests, damages collected from program participants who fail to fulfill their service obligation, and any other money contributed to the fund.

Emergency | First Responders

New Jersey's [NJ A 905](#) / [NJ A 1643](#) / [NJ S 715](#) and **New York's** [NY S 8837](#) were introduced to provide immunity from civil and/or criminal liability to individuals, including first responders and veterinarians, who provide emergency medical care to injured animals at the scene of an accident. Additionally, **New Jersey's** [NJ A 1643](#) would establish the Good Samaritan Law to provide immunity from civil liability for veterinarians or emergency responders who assist animals at an accident scene or emergency and **New York's** bill would provide civil or criminal

immunity to licensed veterinarians that provided off-site instruction to first responders providing basic first aid to a dog or cat. In **Florida**, bills [FL HB 507 / FL SB 842](#) that failed sine-die, would have allowed an ambulance driver to transport an injured police canine if there was no individual requiring medical attention at the time and emergency responders to provide medical care.

Licensure

Legislation that impacts the licensure of veterinarians is a perennial issue. Four states enacted measures in 2020, while many others saw measures stall.

Indiana's [IN SB 427](#) and **Missouri's** [MO HB 2046](#) now allow persons to be issued licenses if they have been licensed in another state for a period of time and are in good standing. When the **New Jersey** Governor declares a state of emergency, [NJ A 3862](#) now allows for expedited professional and occupational licensing for out-of-state veterinarians to practice in the state.

Virginia's [VA SB 422](#) clarifies that the Board of Veterinary Medicine may refuse to grant or renew, suspend, or revoke a license to practice veterinary medicine, to practice as a veterinary technician, or registration to practice as an equine dental technician if the applicant or holder employs or permits any person who does not hold a license to perform work which can lawfully only be performed by a person holding the appropriate license or registration.

Troubling legislation failed in **Tennessee** [TN HB 1945](#), [TN SB 1914](#) and **West Virginia** [WV SB 218](#) that would have permitted consumers to hire unlicensed persons, including those practicing veterinary medicine.

Non-economic Damages | Expanded Economic Damages

While none of the bills introduced in state legislative sessions dealing with non-economic damages was enacted in 2020, this remains an area of top concern for veterinary medicine and will continue to be monitored closely by the AVMA.

Bills that would have established a civil action for damages stalled in three states – **Massachusetts** [MA S 958](#), **New Jersey** [NJ S 722](#), and **New York** [NY A 10405](#). **New Jersey's** bill excluded awarding noneconomic damages in an action for professional negligence against a licensed veterinarian. The **Massachusetts** bill capped awards at \$25,000 and the **New Jersey** bill capped compensation for emotional distress at \$5,000.

Another bill that stalled in **New Jersey** [NJ A 1698](#) would have allowed an owner to bring a civil action for expanded economic damages against the treating veterinarian if the owner believed their companion animal suffered veterinary malpractice.

Along with other advocacy groups, AVMA submitted an amicus brief regarding potential noneconomic damages to the Court of Appeals in **Maryland**. Oral arguments were heard in September 2020.

For more information on noneconomic damages, visit AVMA's resource page [here](#).

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) | Controlled Substances

States continue to grapple with ways to address the opioid epidemic, including requirements for veterinarians to report dispensations and search state PDMP databases.

The **District of Columbia's** [DC B 23-0269](#) now requires veterinarians who administer controlled or covered substances to register with the PDMP within 90 days after becoming licensed. Previously, only those who prescribed and dispensed controlled substances were required to register. **Iowa's** [IA SF 2120](#) allows veterinarians to register for and access information from the state's prescription monitoring program.

The **Alaska State Veterinary Medical Association** championed [AK HB 184](#) and had it passed, would have exempted veterinarians from the requirements of the controlled substance prescription database.

Scope of Practice

Perhaps modeled after **New York's** passage of a law in 2019 to prohibit cat declawing, several states unsuccessfully sought to outlaw the procedure in 2020: **Arizona** [AZ HB 2537](#); **Maryland** [MD HB 445](#); **Minnesota** [MN HF 3733](#); **New Jersey** [NJ A 1087](#) / [NJ S 920](#); **Rhode Island** [RI HB 7342](#); and **West Virginia** [WV HB 2119](#).

Several states pursued legislation to prohibit ear cropping, tail docking, and devocalization but **Washington** [WA SB 6300](#) was the only state where it was enacted. Measures failed in **Hawaii** [HI HB 2163](#); **Michigan** [MI HB 6009](#); **New Hampshire** [NH HB 1683](#); **New Jersey** [NJ A 1211](#); and **New York** [NY S 6904](#).

Legislation failed to pass in **Kentucky** [KY HB 346](#) that would have allowed a person to be granted a license as a large or small animal massage therapist if they: already had a licensed massage therapist, provided the Board of Licensure for Massage Therapy proof of completion of 100 hours of training in either large or small animal massage therapy, and/or limited their practice to only animal massage therapy.

Veterinary Technicians | Veterinary Assistants

Legislation to change the title of veterinary technician to veterinary nurse has failed to cross the finish line in each state where it has been pursued, and that now includes **Oklahoma** [OK SB 1787](#) / [OK SB 1788](#).

AVMA joined the **Utah Veterinary Medical Association** in support of the enacted [UT HB 455](#), which recognizes credentialing for veterinary technicians.

Legislation in **West Virginia** [WV HB 4813](#) that would have removed the registered veterinary technician and animal euthanasia technician certificate designations from the practice act failed to move.

Telemedicine and the veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR)

While state boards of veterinary medicine updated guidance to address the use of telemedicine in veterinary medicine during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, several states considered legislation or regulations that would address the use of telemedicine in establishing a VCPR.

- Both the **AVMA** and **Alaska State Veterinary Medical Association** spoke in opposition to **Alaska's** proposed regulation AK- 5/20/20 - CCED, which would have allowed the blanket establishment of a VCPR without an in-person examination of the patient. The proposal, which did not pass when considered by the Alaska Board of Veterinary Examiners in June 2020, would have also permitted an electronically established VCPR to be extended to another colleague or even a consultant.
- **Florida's** FL SB 366 and FL HB 1015 sought to define and redefine "VCPR", "patient" and "physical examination."
- **Michigan's** MI HB 6195 would have required an established VCPR in order to provide telehealth services to a patient and would prohibit a VCPR from being established solely through telehealth. The Michigan Board of Veterinary Medicine is also in the process of adopting rules related to telemedicine.
- **Montana** regulation MT 24-225-41 would add the term "physical" to the definition of a VCPR to address questions from the public and licensees regarding the specific type of examination required to initiate a VCPR.
- **Nevada's** NV#091-201 would establish telemedicine regulations for veterinary medicine and have dramatic implications for veterinarians in the state. The proposed regulation would permit a VCPR to be established via telemedicine.
- **North Carolina's** 21 NCAC 66.0211 would allow a veterinarian to provide veterinary care via telemedicine to any patient located in the state after establishing a VCPR; however, the regulation specifically states that a VCPR could not be established by electronic means. This regulation's proposed effective date is March 1, 2021.
- **Oklahoma's** OK HB 3482 would have redefined "telemedicine" and "telehealth" as the practice of veterinary medicine and required a veterinarian using telehealth technologies to have taken appropriate steps to establish the VCPR and conduct all appropriate evaluations and history of the patient consistent with traditional standards of care for a patient presentation. A veterinarian would have had to be licensed by the veterinary board of the jurisdiction where the patient was located.

Vaccination

The AVMA is concerned by measures state legislatures considered to allow a titer test to be administered to assist a veterinarian in determining the need for a rabies vaccination. While AVMA supports provisions that would allow a licensed veterinarian to use professional judgement in authorizing annualized exemption from rabies vaccination when inoculation could pose a medical/health risk to the individual dog, AVMA strongly opposes inclusion of language related to titer tests as seen in bills considered in **Massachusetts** MA S 2601 and **Tennessee** TN SB 2539 / TN HB 2788 and as enacted in **Delaware** DE HB 214.

2020 Summary of State Legislation

This chart summarizes major legislation considered and/or enacted during 2020. The summaries provided are an analysis by AVMA staff. Bill text can be accessed by clicking on the links provided for each bill number.

Animal Abuse			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Florida	FL HB 621	<p>Would have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Required a veterinarian to report knowledge or suspicion of animal cruelty to law enforcement within 48 hours of obtaining such knowledge or suspicion; 2. Required a veterinary technician or an employee of animal treatment provider to report knowledge or reasonable suspicion of animal cruelty within 24 hours to a veterinarian who shall, if the cooperation of the owner or caretaker is obtained, attempt to examine the dog or cat within 24 hours after notification of suspected cruelty; and 3. Provided immunity for criminal or civil liability for any decisions made to report suspected cruelty by a veterinarian, veterinary technician, or an employee of a treatment provider facility. 	Failed 3/14/20
Hawaii	HI SB 2985 HI HB 2528	Would have required veterinarians to report animal abuse and provide immunity from liability arising from the report.	Sine Die 3/16/20 Sine Die 2/14/20
Iowa	IA SF 2029	Would provide that a licensed veterinarian is immune from administrative, civil, or criminal liability in animal abuse investigations.	Sine Die 2/19/20
Kentucky	KY SB 21	Requires that a veterinarian report abuse, allow immunity for a good faith report, and allow veterinarians to release information in order to report abuse.	Enacted 4/24/20
New Jersey	NJ A 150	Would have allowed any person to voluntarily and anonymously deliver a domestic companion animal to a shelter, pound, veterinary hospital, or police station in the State, and leave the animal with an employee, veterinarian, or police officer at the facility, and the person would not be liable for the care or disposition of the animal. No employee, veterinarian, or police officer at the shelter, pound, veterinary hospital, or police station would have been allowed to refuse to accept any domestic companion animal.	Introduced/ Last Action 1/14/20
New Jersey	NJ S 119	Would have established the New Jersey Animal Abuser Registry and procedures for notification of members of the public, including veterinarian's offices, for offenders who are at moderate to high risk of re-offense.	Introduced/ Last Action 1/14/20

Animal Advocate Court			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
California	CA AB 2645	Would have allowed a court to appoint an advocate to represent in the interests of the animal involved.	Failed 11/30/20

Illinois	IL HB 3995	Would have:	Introduced 12/16/19
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		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Permitted the court to appoint a legal aid to represent the interests of a cat or dog when a person is facing punishment for neglecting or abusing them; and 2. Directed the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to create a database of legal professionals (lawyers, paralegals) willing to represent a cat or dog in court proceedings. 	Last action 9/21/20
Illinois	IL HB 5530	Would have allowed courts to appoint advocates to promote the interests of justice.	Introduced 2/13/20 Last action 6/23/20
New Jersey	NJ A 4533 NJ S 2868	Would have authorized a court to appoint an advocate in certain criminal cases that affect the welfare or care of an animal.	Introduced/ Last Action 8/13/20 Introduced/ Last Action 9/14/20
Rhode Island	RI HB 7912 RI S 2698	Would have allowed courts to appoint advocates to promote the interests of justice.	Sine Die 2/26/20 Sine Die 2/27/20

Animal Care Facilities Animal Shelters			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
New Jersey	NJ A 319	Would have required a veterinarian overseeing the care of a domestic companion animal at a veterinary facility that does not provide supervision after normal business hours by a person physically on the premises to obtain a consent form signed by the owner or the person bringing the animal to the veterinary facility for care or treatment.	Introduced/ Last Action 1/14/20
New Jersey	NJ S 636	<p>Would have established requirements for the operation of shelters, pounds, kennels operating as shelters or pounds and veterinary holding facilities and provide for their regulation as regulated holding facilities. Facilities would have been required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have a trained and certified director to ensure compliance and certified directors would be required to have special training.; 2. Be licensed as pounds by the municipality in which the facility is located; 3. Report information on the animals in each facility; 4. Establish operating requirements and procedures for euthanizing animals. <p>“Veterinary holding facility” is defined as a facility owned or operated by a veterinarian, veterinary hospital, clinic, veterinary boarding facility, or similar facility that houses stray, surrendered, or otherwise impounded animals as a boarding agent or holding facility for entities such as an animal control provider, municipal humane law enforcement officer, or local law enforcement.</p>	Introduced/ Last Action 1/14/20
New Jersey	NJ A 661	Would have required kennels and veterinary facilities to:	Introduced/ Last Action 1/14/20

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide for the direct supervision of any indoor or outdoor common play area whenever two or more dogs are present in that area at the same time; 2. Keep a record of each time a dog is released from or returned to its cage or enclosure; 3. Develop and implement a training program for all employees of the kennel or veterinary facility who handle or provide care for dogs or who supervise staff handling or providing such care; and 4. File a written certification with authorities that the kennel or veterinary facility is following the requirements. 	
New York	NY A 1284 NY S 1893	Would have improved shelter care for dogs by requiring prompt care and treatment to relieve any pain and suffering, including necessary immediate veterinary care and treatment and parasite control, and appropriate vaccinations.	Introduced/ Last Action 1/8/20 Introduced/ Last Action 1/8/20
Virginia	VA SB 304	Would have: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Required any public or private animal shelter or releasing agency to report on an annual basis the euthanasia rate for animals at such shelter or agency to the State Veterinarian; 2. Required the State Veterinarian to notify the Board of Pharmacy of any such shelter that has a euthanasia rate greater than 50%; and 3. Prohibited the Board of Pharmacy from registering any such shelter to purchase, possess, or administer certain euthanasia drugs. 	Introduced 1/5/20 Last Action: 2/26/20

Appropriations			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
California	CA AB 808	Would have appropriated: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. \$6,636,000 for the Veterinary Medical Board; and 2. \$50,000,000 for the UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program to develop a grant program for animal shelters. 	Sine Die 11/30/20
Florida	FL HB 3345	Would have appropriated \$1 million to fund the Zoo Miami Expansion/Renovation of Animal Hospital for fiscal year 2020-2021.	Vetoed 6/29/20
Hawaii	HI HB 1891	Would have established and appropriate funds for 1 FTE permanent veterinary medical officer position within the Department of Health.	Sine Die 5/12/20
Idaho	ID S 1404	Appropriates \$310,800 to the Board of Veterinary Medicine.	Enacted 3/18/20
Indiana	IN HB 1007	Provides \$73 million for construction of the College of Veterinary Medicine Teaching Hospital at the Purdue University in West Lafayette.	Enacted 3/30/20
Maine	ME LD 1518 (HP 1111)	Funds a tick lab which includes medical and veterinary pest management focusing on health-related issues caused by ticks.	Enacted 1/12/20
Maryland	MD SB 190 MD HB 150	Provides: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. \$818,794 for the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners. 2. \$3,618,298 for Animal Health. 	Enacted 5/8/20
Massachusetts	MA H 3801	Would have provided: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. \$1,088,304 for the Department of Public Health for a drug registration and monitoring program from fees charged to 	Introduced 4/25/19 Last Action 7/22/20

		<p>registered practitioners, including veterinarians, for controlled substance registration;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> \$5,500,000 for a contract with the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University; and \$6,783,662 for the Department of Agricultural Resources which includes funding the Division of Animal Health. 	
Minnesota	MN SF 3057	Would have provided \$675,000 to purchase testing equipment for the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at the University of Minnesota.	Sine Die 3/16/20
	MN HF 3296		Sine Die 2/20/20
Minnesota	MN HF 3459	Would have provided funding for the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory as part of \$9,204,000 for health sciences programming at the University of Minnesota.	Sine Die 2/17/20
Pennsylvania	PA SB 1014	Would have provided \$31,660,000 to the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania for veterinary activities.	Sine Die 3/9/20
	PA SB 1064		Sine Die 4/7/20
South Dakota	SD HB 1227	Provides \$250,000 for the rural veterinary medical education program at the South Dakota State University.	Enacted 3/30/20

Animal Blood Banks			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
California	CA SB 1115	<p>Would have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Redefined a “commercial blood bank for animals” to only allow for blood collection from “community-sourced” animals that are brought by their owners to the commercial blood bank. Excluded from the definition establishments that collect blood from “captive closed-colony” animals that are kept, housed, or maintained for the purpose of collecting their blood. <p>Implementation would have been delayed upon a determination of an equivalent blood supply from community-sourced animals.</p>	Sine Die 11/30/20

Cannabis Marijuana Hemp			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Florida	FL D-Ag & CS 5E-3.003	<p>Would have specified that pet food and specialty pet food as well as pet treats and specialty pet treats:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Be tested and have a certificate of analysis prepared by an independent testing laboratory if it contains hemp extract; Cannot contain more than 0.3% total delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol concentration on a dry weight basis; Be labeled and declare the number of milligrams of hemp extract; and Cannot contain claims indicating the product is intended for diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease rendering it a drug. 	Proposed 10/10/19
Michigan	MI HB 5085	Allows a veterinarian to consult with an animal’s owner on the use of marijuana or industrial hemp on an animal patient.	Enacted 12/31/20

Rhode Island	RI H 7808	<p>Would have made pets eligible to use medical marijuana if certified by a licensed veterinarian. The bill defined:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Authorized purchaser" as any person assisting a domestic pet under the care of a veterinarian licensed by the department of health. 2. "Debilitating medical condition" to include any condition suffered by a domestic pet that would be a "debilitating medical condition" if it were suffered by a person. 3. "Medical use" to mean consumption of marijuana by a domestic pet pursuant to a written certification by a licensed veterinarian. 4. "Qualifying patient" to mean a person or domestic pet who has been certified by a practitioner as having a debilitating medical condition and is a resident of Rhode Island. 	Sine Die 2/26/20
West Virginia	WV ID 61-30	<p>Would have provided for the registration and regulation of hemp products, including pet treats or by-products used in animal feed, sold within the state. Hemp products meant for animal consumption would have had to be labeled and would have been prohibited from containing medical claims on the label that were not approved by the FDA.</p>	Filed 1/7/20

COVID-19			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Alabama	AL Proc. 5/8/20	<p>Would have protected:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Healthcare providers from lawsuits based on actions they took or failed to take as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and 2. Businesses from lawsuits when they conduct COVID-19 testing or distribute personal protective equipment to help protect people from COVID-19. 	Proposed 5/8/20
Alaska	AK SB 241	<p>In response to the COVID-19 pandemic:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prohibits increasing licensing fees; 2. Permits the granting of a license on an expedited basis to an individual who holds a corresponding license in good standing in another jurisdiction to the extent necessary to respond to the public health disaster emergency; and 3. Allows a licensing board to temporarily waive or modify the continuing education requirements required for licensees to renew a professional license in calendar year 2020. 	Enacted 5/19/20
District of Columbia	DC B 23-0718	<p>Empowers the Mayor to issue a grant or loan to an eligible small business that demonstrates financial distress caused by a reduction in business revenue due to the public health emergency on an emergency basis. Grants could be used for any of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Employee wages and benefits associated with employment, including health insurance; 2. Operating business costs including taxes and debt service; and 3. Repayment of loans obtained through the U.S. Small Business Administration. 	Enacted 4/7/20
District of Columbia	DC B 23-0719	<p>Would have empowered the Mayor to issue a grant or loan to an eligible small business that demonstrates financial distress caused by a reduction in business revenue due to the public health emergency on a temporary basis. Grants could have been used for any of the following:</p>	Introduced 3/17/20 Last Action 4/7/20

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Employee wages and benefits associated with employment, including health insurance; 2. Operating business costs including taxes and debt service; and 3. Repayment of loans obtained through the U.S. Small Business Administration. 	
Idaho	<u>ID HB 6</u>	Offers protection to entities complying with public health orders, and provides limited immunity from certain liability if: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Entities (businesses, cities, counties, schools) try to avoid transmission; and 2. Entities are not willfully or recklessly spreading COVID-19. 	Enacted 8/26/20
Minnesota	<u>MN SF 4563</u> <u>MN HF 4682</u>	Would have changed appropriations and transferred federal funds from the general coronavirus relief account, including a \$10 million transfer to the commissioner of employment and economic development for the <i>Minnesota Small Business Loan Guarantee Program (MSBLGP)</i> . Funding would be available until 12/30/20. The MSBLGP is a temporary program established to help Minnesota lenders provide capital to small businesses with fewer than 250 employees affected by COVID-19, including veterinary practices.	Sine Die 5/13/20 Sine Die 5/15/20
Oklahoma	<u>OK SB 1946</u>	Ensures a person is not liable in an action claiming an injury from exposure or potential exposure to COVID-19 if the act or omission alleged to violate a duty of care complied or was consistent with federal or state regulations, a Presidential or Gubernatorial Order, or guidance applicable at the time of the exposure.	Enacted 5/21/20
Utah	<u>UT SB 3007</u>	Ensures a person is immune from civil liability for damages or an injury result from exposure of an individual to COVID-19 on the premises owned or operated by the person, or during an activity managed by the person.	Enacted 5/4/20

Education			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Colorado	<u>CO HB 20-1002</u>	Requires a plan be implemented for determining and awarding academic credit for postsecondary education based on work-related experience. "Work related experience" means any experience acquired within the past 10 years through paid or unpaid employment, including but not limited to self-employment, an internship, a residency, a pre-apprenticeship program, or an apprenticeship program, that may lead to or result in a business credential, an industry credential, a technical certificate or a professional license.	Enacted 7/8/20
Iowa	<u>IA SF 2398</u>	Establishes a rural veterinarian loan repayment program for veterinary students and certain licensed veterinarians, a rural veterinary care trust fund, and make appropriations for the trust fund.	Enacted 6/17/20
Kentucky	<u>KY HB 214</u>	Creates the Veterinary Contract Spaces Program (VCSP), establishes the VCSP Trust Fund, and requires the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority to administer the program.	Enacted 3/11/20
Ohio	<u>OH HB 67</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creates a veterinarian student debt assistance program whereby recipients would be selected from a lottery system in each odd-numbered calendar year. In exchange for assistance of no less than \$5,000 and no more than \$10,000, participants provide no less than 12 hours of charitable veterinarian services including spay and neuter in conjunction with a nonprofit 	Enacted 4/12/21

		<p>organization, a humane society, a law enforcement agency, or a state, local, or federal government entity.</p> <p>2. Establishes a fund to pay for the student debt assistance program that consists of money transferred from the occupational licensing and regulatory fund, money received from gifts, donations, and bequests; damages collected from program participants who fail to fulfill their service obligation, and any other money contributed to the fund.</p>	
New Jersey	NJ A 4083	Would have required certified animal control officers and animal cruelty investigators to engage in continuing education.	Introduced/ Last Action 5/7/20
Virginia	VA HB 1363	<p>Would have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allowed for the practical training and employment of students of veterinary medicine and veterinary technology; and 2. Established a temporary postgraduate license. 	Failed 2/11/20

Emergency First Responders			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Florida	FL HB 507 FL SB 842	<p>Would have allowed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An ambulance driver to transport an injured police canine to a veterinary clinic or similar facility if there is no individual requiring medical attention or transport at that time; and 2. A paramedic or an emergency medical technician (EMT) to provide emergency medical care to an injured police canine while at the scene of the emergency or while the police canine is being transported to a veterinary clinic. <p>A paramedic or an EMT who acted in good faith to provide emergency medical care to an injured police canine would have been immune from criminal or civil liability.</p>	<p>Failed 3/14/20</p> <p>Failed 3/14/20</p>
Florida	FL SB 752	<p>Would have required:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Every county to designate at least one shelter that can accommodate persons with pets; 2. Pets be contained in secure enclosures in an area of the facility separate from the sheltering public; and 3. The shelter to follow safety procedures regarding the sheltering of pets established in the shelter component of the state comprehensive emergency management plan. 	Failed 3/5/20
Montana	MT 24-101-308	<p>Amends registration for out-of-state volunteer professionals, including veterinarians, to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Permit a volunteer professional to accept remuneration for services provided during a state of emergency; and 2. Exempt a volunteer professional from continuing education requirements for the state of Montana. 	Final 7/24/20
New Jersey	NJ A 905	Would have provided immunity from civil liability to any individual rendering emergency care to an animal at the scene of an accident or during a disaster, or while transporting an animal during a rescue from a disaster.	Introduced/ Last Action 1/14/20
New Jersey	NJ A 1643 NJ S 715	Would have established the Good Samaritan Law to provide immunity from civil liability for veterinarians or emergency responders who assist animals at an accident scene or emergency.	Introduced/ Last Action 1/14/20

New York	NY S 5654	<p>Would have provided immunity from civil or criminal liability to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Any licensed veterinarian that provides off-site instruction to any first responder providing basic first aid to a dog or cat. 2. A certified first responder or emergency medical technician that renders basic first aid to a dog or cat while responding to an emergency; and <p>Would have limited basic first aid performed on an animal to the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opening and manually maintaining an airway; 2. Providing mouth-to-mouth or mouth-to-barrier ventilation; administering oxygen; and managing ventilation by mask; 3. Controlling hemorrhage with direct pressure; 4. Immobilizing fractures; 5. Bandaging; and 6. Administering naloxone allowed by law and as directed by a licensed veterinarian. 	Failed 1/8/20
New York	NY S 8837	<p>Would have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provided immunity from civil or criminal liability to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. A certified first responder or emergency medical technician that renders basic first aid to a dog or cat while responding to an emergency; and b. Any licensed veterinarian that provides off-site instruction to any first responder providing basic first aid to a dog or cat; 2. Limited basic first aid performed on an animal to the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Opening and manually maintaining an airway; b. Providing mouth-to-mouth or mouth-to-barrier ventilation; c. Administering oxygen; d. Managing Ventilation by mask; e. Controlling hemorrhage with direct pressure; f. Immobilizing fractures; g. Bandaging; and h. Administering naloxone allowed by law and as directed by a licensed veterinarian. 	Introduced/ Last Action 7/21/20

Equine			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
California	CA SB 800	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adds an exception to that prohibition for care or service for a horse that has participated in, or is intended to participate in, a licensed horse race. 2. Requires that the veterinarian make the entire medical record for the horse available upon request to anyone responsible for the direct care of the horse, including the owner, trainer, or veterinarian, the California Horse Racing Board or any other state or local governmental entity, and the racing association or fair conducting the licensed horse race. 	Enacted 9/29/20
California	CA AB 2177	<p>Would have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Required the Horse Racing Board to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Adopt rules and regulations for equine welfare and safety used for horse racing and to convene and oversee a panel of independent veterinarians and stewards to review the medical, training, and racing histories of horses entered to race and be authorized to deem a horse unfit to run; 	Sine Die Fail 11/30/20

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Establish safety standards governing veterinary services, medical and ambulance services; and c. Establish equine medication policies, guidelines, and penalties; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Required all medications administered at racetracks to be dispensed through an onsite central pharmacy and limited to the least amount needed for the horse while staying at the racetrack; 3. Required a veterinarian to report owners who order horses to be entered in races if the veterinarian has recommended against it for the welfare and safety of the horse; and 4. Required all records required by law to be kept by a veterinarian and that the records, equipment and drugs be open to inspection by the owner of the horse, a licensed board or track veterinarian authorized by the board, the currently licensed trainer of the racehorse, or the racehorse's jockey. 	
Indiana	<u>IN SB 226</u>	Would have provided that an individual who performs teeth floating on horses is exempt from the licensing or special permit requirements of the veterinary medicine laws if the individual has a valid certification from the International Association of Equine Dentistry or an equivalent certification approved by the board of veterinary medicine and acts under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian when administering a sedative drug to a horse before performing teeth floating on the horse.	Failed 2/10/20
Washington	<u>WA HB 2579</u>	Would have established a wild horse holding and training program designed in partnership with the federal BLM Wild Horse and Burro Program and in consultation with Washington State University CVM to determine whether it may have students practice care at the training and holding facilities.	Vetoed 4/3/20
West Virginia	<u>WV ID 178-01</u>	Would have modified the thoroughbred racing rules so that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No drug may be administered except in the context of a valid VCPR; 2. The trainer and veterinarian are both responsible to ensure compliance with the limitations on drug treatments of horses, except the medical judgment to recommend a drug treatment or to prescribe a drug is the responsibility of the veterinarian and the decision to proceed with a drug treatment is the responsibility of the horse owner; and 3. Adds certain prohibited substances and methods that cannot be used at any place or time and may not be possessed on the premises of a racing or training facility, except as a restricted therapeutic use. 	Filed 12/20/19

Euthanasia			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
New Jersey	<u>NJ A 3166</u>	Would have barred enforcement of a provision in a decedent's will instructing euthanasia of healthy domestic companion animal.	Introduced/ Last Action 2/24/20

Feral Cats			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
New Jersey	NJ A 4504	<p>Would have established the Stray Animal Study Commission which would have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identified and studied stray animal and animal control issues in the State, including issues surrounding stray and feral cats colloquially referred to as “community cats” and “cat colonies,” and any funding shortfalls regarding the issues identified; 2. Studied and developed solutions to (a) stray animal or animal control problems identified, and (b) problems in municipalities concerning feral cats, community cats, or cat colonies; and 3. Provided recommendations for legal action, legislation, and possible funding sources address stray animal or animal control problems in the State, including, but not limited to, those associated with feral cats, community cats, or cat colonies. 	<p>Introduced 8/10/20 Last Action 8/13/20</p>

Liability			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Iowa	IA HF 2374 IA SF 2029	<p>Would have provided a licensed veterinarian immunity from civil, administrative, or criminal liability in investigations or proceedings involving the mistreatment of animals.</p>	<p>Sine Die 3/10/20 Sine Die 2/19/20</p>
North Carolina	NC SB 704	<p>Made “essential businesses” and “emergency response entities” temporarily immune from civil liability to customers, employees or users for these claims unless the business was grossly negligent, reckless or intentionally caused the harm.</p>	<p>Enacted 5/4/20</p>
Virginia	VA HB 5130	<p>Would have required that following the declaration by the Governor of a state of emergency, employers would have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compensated its essential workers at a rate not less than one and one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay for any hours worked during the closure order 2. Provided its essential workers with personal protective equipment related to the state of emergency and recommended for the relevant work site or job task by the Department of Labor and Industry, the Department of Health, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. 3. Explicitly listed “<i>pet and feed stores</i>” as an essential retail business 	<p>Failed 11/9/20</p>
West Virginia	WV SB 184	<p>Would have provided protection from civil liability for certain individuals, including veterinarians and veterinary assistants, for damages to an owner's motor vehicle, when removing a domesticated animal from the locked and/or unattended motor vehicle.</p>	<p>Sine Die 1/9/20</p>
Wyoming	WY SF 1002	<p>Ensures a business entity that follows the instructions of a state, city, town or county health officer in responding to a public health emergency is immune from liability arising from complying with those instructions or acting in good faith.</p>	<p>Enacted 5/20/20</p>

Licensure			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Alaska	AK HB 299	Would have required agencies to review occupational regulations and licenses and justify that they are using the least restrictive means to regulate a profession.	Failed 2/24/20
California	CA AB 2549	Would have required: 1. The Veterinary Medical Board to issue a temporary license to an applicant within 30 days of receiving the required documentation; and 2. A temporary license to convert to a standard license if, within 12 months of issuance, the applicant meets all of the requirements for a standard license or submits documents demonstrating that the requirements to obtain the out-of-state license were substantially equivalent to the requirements for a standard license as determined by the board.	Sine Die 11/30/20
Florida	FL SB 474	Would have: 1. Amended the definition of limited-service veterinary medical practice to include locations that provide vaccinations or immunizations against disease, preventative procedures for parasitic control, and microchipping; 2. Required the Department of Business and Professional Regulation to license an applicant who the Board of Veterinary Medicine (Board) certifies has graduated from a college of veterinary medicine listed in the AVMA roster of veterinary colleges of the world and obtained a certificate from the program for the assessment of veterinary education equivalence; and 3. Amended the licensure by endorsement requirements to include an applicant has successfully completed a state, regional, national, or other examination that is equivalent to, or more stringent than the examination required by the Board.	Failed 3/12/20
Florida	FL 61G18-16.002	Would have established during any biennium period that a licensed veterinarian can receive credit for no more than 5 hours each of continuing professional education in business or practice management courses; and wellness and well-being seminars.	Proposed 2/19/20
Indiana	IN SB 427	Allows a person to be issued a provisional license at the same practice level as a license the person holds in another state when the person affirms information concerning the person's license and has passed a criminal background check.	Enacted 3/18/20
Indiana	IN HB 1008	Would have required the board to issue an occupational license to a person who is licensed in another state upon application if they meet the criteria for an occupational license.	Introduced 1/6/20 Last Action 3/5/20
Kansas	KS SB 391	Would have required all agencies to complete a comprehensive review of all occupational regulations and occupational licenses and specifically provide for the ability to legally challenge regulations as being too restrictive according to a hierarchy of specified criteria.	Failed 6/2/20
Mississippi	MS HB 261	Would have required the board to issue an occupational license or government certification to a person upon application if they meet the criteria for an occupational license or government certification.	Failed 3/3/20
Missouri	MO HB 2046	Allows a person who holds a valid current license issued by another state, a territory of the U.S. or DC, and who has been licensed for at least one year in such other jurisdiction, to submit an application for	Enacted 7/6/20

		a license in Missouri in the same occupation or profession, and at the same practice level they hold the current license.	
New Hampshire	NH SB 568	Would have established a legislative committee to provide oversight on the office of professional licensure and certification.	Failed 3/5/20
New Jersey	NJ A 3862	Allows expedited professional and occupational licensing (including veterinarians) for out-of-state individuals when the New Jersey Governor has declared a state of emergency.	Enacted 3/19/20
New Jersey	NJ A 1027 NJ S 846	Would have required the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs to provide information concerning health care professionals, including veterinarians, on the License Verification System: 1. Any professional discipline by a health care professional board in this State or any other state; 2. Any malpractice claim, settlement, or judgment against the professional; 3. Any loss of hospital privileges; 4. Any criminal convictions; and 5. Any actions taken against the professional by federal regulators (FDA, DEA).	Introduced/ Last Action 1/14/20 Introduced 1/14/20 Last Action 11/16/20
New Jersey	NJ A 1207	Would have required professional and occupational boards to issue a license, certificate of registration, or certification to any applicant who received a license and equivalent training, education, or experience in other state or jurisdiction of the U.S.	Introduced/ Last Action 1/14/20
Oklahoma	OK SB 1678	Would have established state policy for the regulation of occupations least restrictive and establish a sunrise/sunset review.	Sine Die 2/6/20
Oklahoma	OK SB 1679	Would have required the board to issue an occupational license or government certification to a person upon application if they meet the criteria for an occupational license or government certification.	Sine Die 2/6/20
Tennessee	TN HB 1944	Would have required the board to issue an occupational license to a person who is licensed in another state upon application if they meet the criteria for an occupational license.	Sine Die 3/10/20
Tennessee	TN HB 1945 TN SB 1914	Would have permitted consumers to hire unlicensed persons, including those practicing veterinary medicine and required a written agreement to be entered into by both parties prior to any work commencing. The written agreement would have acknowledged that the customer: 1. Was aware that the person is not certified or licensed; and 2. Released the person performing the work from all liability that may arise from the person's performance of the work, except for an action brought for intentional, willful, or malicious conduct.	Sine Die 1/31/20 Sine Die 2/14/20
Virginia	VA SB 829	Would have permitted the Governor to reinstate the license for any profession regulated by an executive branch agency that has been revoked by such agency.	Failed 1/22/20
Virginia	VA HB 982	Would have established criteria for an individual licensed in another state to apply for an occupational license in the Commonwealth. Regulatory boards could have required an individual to pass a jurisprudential exam specific to relevant state laws that regulate the occupation.	Failed 1/30/20
Virginia	VA SB 422	Clarifies that the Board of Veterinary Medicine may refuse to grant or renew, suspend, or revoke any license to practice veterinary medicine, to practice as a veterinary technician, or registration to practice as an equine dental technician, if such applicant or holder employs or permits any person who does not hold a license to	Enacted 4/8/20

		perform work which can lawfully be performed only by a person holding the appropriate license or registration.	
Washington	WA HB 2354	Would have directed department of licensing to establish procedures to expedite the issuance of a license, certificate, registration, or permit to perform professional services regulated by the department to a person who is licensed, certified, or registered, or has a permit in another state.	Sine Die 2/8/20
Washington	WA HB 2355	Would have allowed issuance of an occupational license, without regard to other requirements, to an applicant if the applicant meets all competency-based licensing requirements for a specific occupational license. "Competency-based licensing requirement" could have included, but was not limited to, any combination of training, experience, testing, or observation.	Sine Die 2/8/20
West Virginia	WV HB 4813	Would have: 1. Made a licensed veterinarian responsible for ensuring staff performing euthanasia tasks have received education, training, guidance, and supervision from a licensed veterinarian. 2. Removed the registered veterinary technician certificate designation and the animal euthanasia technician certificate designation from the practice act.	Sine Die 2/11/20
West Virginia	WV HB 4949	Would have established an oversight board which would have had the authority to actively supervise state occupational boards, provide for review and oversight by the Attorney General and establish policy to avoid liability under federal anti-trust laws.	Sine Die 2/11/20
West Virginia	WV SB 218	Would have permitted consumers to hire unlicensed persons, including those practicing veterinary medicine. A provider would have been required to disclose the following: "West Virginia state law requires providers of the service that you, the consumer, are agreeing to purchase in this contract to hold an occupational license. I am not licensed by the state, but by providing this non-licensed disclosure I am allowed by [cite this section] to perform the service in this contract."	Sine Die 1/9/20
Wisconsin	WI AB 130	Would have exempted applicants for veterinary licenses and veterinary technician certificates from the fee for an initial license or certification	Sine Die Failed 4/1/20

Livestock			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Arizona	AZ HB 2724	Would have: 1. Prohibited a farm owner or operator in Arizona from knowingly confining an egg-laying hen in an enclosure with less than one square foot of usable floor space per hen (beginning 12/31/20) or in an enclosure that is not a cage free housing system (beginning 12/31/24). After 12/31/20, business owners and operators would have been prohibited from selling or transporting eggs from hens that are housed in manners not compliant with the standards; and 2. Exempted medical research and examining testing, individually treating or operating for veterinary purposes, but only if performed by or under the direct supervision of a veterinarian.	Sine Die 5/8/20

Maine	<u>ME LD 2084 (HP 1485)</u>	Would have provided that after 12/31/24 farm owners and operators keep their egg-laying hens in cage-free housing systems; and business owners and operators could not sell eggs from hens that were not kept in cage-free housing systems. The bill exempted medical research, and examining testing, individually treating or operating for veterinary purposes, but only if performed by or under the direct supervision of a veterinarian.	Failed 11/16/20
New York	<u>NY A 9632</u>	Would have: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prohibited medically important antimicrobials from being administered to a food-producing animal unless ordered through a prescription or a VFD given by a licensed veterinarian who has visited the farm operation within the previous 6 months; 2. Allowed only use of medically important antimicrobial in a food-producing animal to control the spread of a disease or infection; to treat a disease or infection; or in relation to surgical or other medical procedures; 3. Eliminated the use of medically important antimicrobials in food-producing animals solely for growth promotion, improved feed efficiency, or disease prevention; 4. Provided that medically important antimicrobials can be used only for the purpose and duration specified by a veterinarian. 5. Required annual reporting for veterinarians that prescribe and provide, or administer medically important antimicrobials to food-producing animals. 	Introduced/ Last Action 1/28/20
Wisconsin	<u>WI AB 812</u>	Would have required the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to create a voluntary individual animal identification program for livestock owners.	Sine Die Failed 4/1/20

Microchips Identification			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Georgia	<u>GA HB 886</u>	Would have: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Required veterinarians or veterinary technicians that provide treatment to animals to scan the animals for a microchip and report ownership information if the microchip information indicates a different owner than the individual presenting the animal for treatment; 2. Provided that a licensed veterinarian or veterinary technician may appear and testify in any judicial or administrative proceeding concerning the ownership and treatment of such animal; and 3. Provided immunity from any civil or criminal liability to any person participating in the making of a report or participating in any administrative or judicial proceeding. 	Sine Die 3/13/20
South Carolina	<u>SC S 1156</u>	Would have required those transporting pigs in the state, via waterway or public road, to have an official form of identification that is approved by the State Veterinarian.	Sine Die 3/10/20

Non-economic Damages Malpractice			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Massachusetts	<u>MA S 958</u>	<p>Would have specified that a person who willfully, recklessly, or negligently kills or injures a companion animal is liable for the following damages:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The fair monetary value of the deceased animal to his or her human companions; 2. The loss of the reasonably expected society, companionship, comfort, protection and services of the deceased animal to his or her human companions; 3. Reasonable burial expenses of the deceased animal; 4. Court costs and attorney's fees; and 5. Other reasonable damages resulting from the willful, wanton, reckless, or negligent act. <p>Non-economic damages would have had a cap value of \$25,000.</p>	<p>Introduced 1/22/19 Last Action 2/3/20</p>
New Jersey	<u>NJ A 1698</u>	<p>Would have allowed an owner of a domestic companion animal that the owner believed had been subjected to veterinary malpractice, resulting in the death of or injury to the animal, to bring a civil action for expanded economic damages against the veterinarian allegedly committing the veterinary malpractice.</p>	<p>Introduced/ Last Action 1/14/20</p>
New Jersey	<u>NJ S 722</u>	<p>Would have established a civil action for damages, including compensation for emotional distress suffered by the owner, that may be brought by any person who has a right of ownership in an animal that is injured or killed as a result of an unlawful and intentional, or a negligent act of another.</p> <p>Would not have authorized any award of noneconomic damages in an action for professional negligence against a licensed veterinarian and the compensation for emotional distress would have been capped at \$5000.</p>	<p>Introduced/ Last Action 1/14/20</p>
New York	<u>NY A 10405</u>	<p>Would have allowed pet owners to seek damages for pain and suffering from a person who negligently or intentionally caused physical injury or death to their companion animal.</p>	<p>Introduced/ Last Action 5/4/20</p>

Ownership			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
California	<u>CA AB 3201</u>	<p>Would have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Required a large corporation that owns more than 60 veterinary premises in California to display on the premises and publish on its internet website its rates for specialized and traditional veterinary care, certain information regarding a price increase of more than 5% in a calendar year, and the percentage of a customer's payment for services rendered that is used for operation costs, patient care, and profits; 2. Prohibited a large corporation from purchasing additional veterinary premises unless the board reviews and approves the purchase; and 3. Required the board to conduct a full review and audit of a large corporation's licenses to operate veterinary premises if there are more than 100 complaints and health and safety citations against the corporation in a calendar year. 	<p>Sine Die 11/30/20</p>

Nebraska	NE LB 988	Would have allowed non-veterinary ownership of veterinary practices.	Failed 8/13/20
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Pet Stores			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
New Jersey	NJ A 4644	<p>Would have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prohibited animal rescue organizations, animal rescue organization facilities, pet shops, shelters, or pounds from obtaining a cat, dog, or rabbit from a breeder or broker in exchange for any type of compensation; and 2. Required that, when first available for adoption, the animal be examined by a veterinarian. The veterinarian would have been required to establish an animal health history and issue an animal health certificate based on the examination that documented the name and address of the examining veterinarian and the health and condition of the animal. 	Introduced/ Last Action 9/14/20

Pharmaceuticals Prescription Drug Monitoring Program			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Alaska	AK HB 184	Would have exempted veterinarians from the requirements of the controlled substance prescription database.	Sine Die 3/19/20
Alaska	AK HB 242	Would have directed the Board of Veterinary Examiners to adopt regulations necessary to establish opioid prescription dosage standards based on morphine milligram equivalents.	Sine Die 3/19/20
District of Columbia	DC B 23-0269	Requires registration of veterinarians who administer controlled or covered substances with the prescription monitoring program (PMP) within 90 days after becoming licensed. Previously the law only required veterinarians prescribing and dispensing to register with the PMP.	Enacted 7/24/20
Florida	FL D-Bus-Prof-Reg-61N-2.007	Would have required a Limited Prescription Drug Veterinary Wholesale Distributor Permit for any person who engaged in the distribution of veterinary prescription drugs in or into Florida.	Proposed 11/7/19
Florida	FL D-Bus-Prof-Reg-61N-2.027	Would have required any person that sells veterinary prescription drugs to the public to obtain a Veterinary Prescription Drug Retail Establishment Permit.	Proposed 11/12/19
Florida	FL D-Bus-Prof-Reg-61N-2.028	Would have required a Limited Prescription Drug Veterinary Wholesale Distributor Permit for any person who engages in the distribution of veterinary prescription drugs in or into Florida.	Proposed 11/7/19
Iowa	IA SF 2120	Allows veterinarians to register for and access information from the Iowa prescription monitoring program.	Enacted 6/1/20
Maine	ME LD 1460 (ME SP 445)	Would have established a drug take-back stewardship program and required certain drug manufacturers, including brand and generic drugs for veterinary use, to operate a drug take-back stewardship program to collect and dispose of certain drugs.	Failed 11/16/20
Maryland	MD SB 166	Requires electronic prescribing of controlled substances but explicitly exempts prescriptions issued by licensed veterinarians.	Enacted 5/8/20
New Jersey	NJ A 1503	Would have required prescriptions for animals to be issued in name of animal owner and required the Prescription Monitoring Program to include information about controlled substances prescribed by veterinarians.	Introduced/ Last Action 1/14/20

New Jersey	<u>NJ A 1589</u>	<p>Would have added verbiage to requirements for practitioners, including veterinarians:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not issue an initial prescription for an opioid drug in a quantity exceeding a 5-day supply for treatment of acute pain. Any prescription for acute pain would be for the lowest effective dose of immediate-release opioid drug <u>and for the shortest period that is possible, as determined by the practitioner; and</u> 2. <u>Consider alternatives to the prescription of a Schedule II controlled dangerous substance or any other opioid drug, such as the use of non-opioid medications, nerve-blocking treatments, nitrous oxide, or any other non-addictive treatments.</u> 	Introduced/ Last Action 1/14/20
New Jersey	<u>NJ A 2869</u>	<p>Would have expanded the State’s prescription monitoring program (PMP) to include veterinarians, except in the case of a veterinarian who administers or prescribes a controlled dangerous substance (CDS) to an animal while providing, assisting in, or supervising the emergency care performed on the animal.</p> <p>Veterinarians performing emergency care would have been excluded from the PMP in order to not inhibit their ability to treat animals in need of urgent care and to parallel the existing exclusion in the PMP provided for practitioners prescribing a CDS in an emergency department.</p>	Introduced/ Last Action 2/20/20
New Mexico	<u>NM 16.19.6 NMAC;</u> <u>16.19.30 NMAC</u>	Will allow licensed pharmacy to compound non-sterile, non-controlled substance preparations for veterinarian office use. Up to 5 days’ supply may be dispensed for use in a single course of treatment from the office use preparation by a veterinarian for a patient when the patient has an emergency condition that the compounded drug is necessary to treat and timely access to a compounding pharmacy is not available.	Proposed 3/10/20
New York	<u>NY S 3959</u> <u>NY A 6502</u>	Would have required a veterinarian who provides medication to an animal to notify the animal's owner, verbally and in writing, of the potential risks and side effects of such medication prior to providing medication.	Sine Die 2/5/20 Sine Die 1/8/20
New York	<u>NY A 8615</u> <u>NY S 3085</u>	Would have established a drug repository program to accept and dispense donated prescription drugs, including drugs issued on the order of a licensed veterinarian.	Introduced 10/2/19 Last Action 1/8/20
Oregon	<u>OR VMEB 875-015-0040</u>	Would have aligned minimum standards for veterinary drugs and biologicals with Board of Pharmacy requirements under Dispensing Practitioner Drug Outlet rules.	Proposed 10/31/19
Rhode Island	<u>RI SB 2369</u>	Would have established a process for the donation of unused medications for use by nonprofit, state and local facilities by owners of animals.	Sine Die 2/13/20
Rhode Island	<u>RI SB 2526</u>	Would have mandated drug manufacturers establish, fund, and manage a state approved drug take back program for the safe collection and disposal of unused covered drugs, which include drugs for veterinary use. This would not have included pet pesticide products contained in pet collars, powders, shampoos, topical applications, or other forms.	Sine Die 3/12/20

Utah	UT OPLC - R156-37f	<p>Would have required the Controlled Substance Database to collect information regarding:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The prescription noncontrolled substance 1-Aminoethyl-cyclohexaneacetic acid (Gabapentin); and 2. Any substance which contains any quantity of a derivative of barbituric acid or any salt of any of them (Butalbital). 	Proposed 11/1/19
Vermont	VT H 613	Would have required a pharmacist or other health care professional, including veterinarians, dispensing an opioid medication to a human or animal patient to add a warning label or sticker to the prescription container that identifies the medication as an opioid and warns of the risk of addiction and overdose.	Introduced/ Last Action 1/9/20
Wyoming	WY repeal Chap. 6, create Chap. 10 of CSA Rules & Regs	Would have exempted controlled substance prescriptions from the electronic prescribing requirement when issued by a licensed veterinarian. Comment period closed 7/23/20.	Proposed 5/29/20

Research | Adoption

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Florida	FL HB 181	Would have required a research facility to offer retired animals for adoption through an animal rescue organization, animal shelter, or to an individual through an arrangement between the facility and the individual.	Failed 3/14/20
Massachusetts	MA S 2463	<p>Would have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Required a research institution to offer a dog or cat for adoption before the animal is euthanized for any purpose other than scientific, medical, or educational research; and 2. Exempted research institutions from this adoption requirement if the dog or cat: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Manifests a behavioral or temperamental defect that poses a risk to the health and safety of the public; or b. Manifests symptoms of a disease, injury, a congenital or hereditary condition that adversely affects, or is likely to adversely affect, the health of the dog or cat. 	Introduced/ Last Action 1/16/20

Scope of Practice

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Arizona	AZ HB 2537	Would have allowed a veterinarian to perform or cause to be performed declawing, onychectomy or tendonectomy of a cat only if the veterinarian is licensed and the procedure is for a therapeutic purpose. A veterinarian who performed declawing, onychectomy or tendonectomy on a cat would have been required to keep a record of the procedure for at least 4 years after the last contact with the cat.	Sine Die 1/27/20
California	CA AB 1953	Would have included in the collection of blood from a dog for the purpose of transferring or selling that blood, or blood products derived from the blood, to a licensed veterinarian for use at a registered premise as the practice of veterinary medicine.	Sine Die 11/30/20

<p>Hawaii</p>	<p><u>HI HB 2163</u></p>	<p>Would have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Specified that accepted veterinary practices and cropping or docking as customarily practiced are not considered cruelty to animals if performed by a licensed veterinarian; 2. Prohibited an animal's owner and the owner's employees from performing any surgical procedure, including surgical birth, ear cropping, tail docking, or debarking, without being licensed as a veterinarian; and 3. Added the use of castration bands to neuter pet animals to the offense of cruelty to animals in the second degree. 	<p>Sine Die 2/3/20</p>
<p>Kentucky</p>	<p><u>KY HB 346</u></p>	<p>Would have allowed a person to be granted a license as a large or small animal massage therapist if they are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A licensed massage therapist in good standing who has provided the Board of Licensure for Massage Therapy proof of completion of 100 hours of training in either large or small animal massage therapy; or 2. An individual whose practice is limited to only animal massage therapy and has applied for certification as an animal massage therapist upon completion of a program approved by the board in either large or small animal massage therapy. <p>The Board of Licensure for Massage Therapy could have issued an animal massage therapy license to an applicant who:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Was 18 years of age or older; 2. Had submitted a completed application and paid the fees required by the board; and 3. Had practiced animal massage therapy for a minimum of 3 years under the supervision of 1 or more veterinarians. <p>An animal massage therapist would have had to report to the animal's owner or representative any findings that indicated the need for an examination by a licensed veterinarian. If referred by a veterinarian, the animal massage therapist would have had to provide the veterinarian written or electronic notification of results of the treatment and summary of observations of the animal's condition, including any contraindications to animal massage therapy or the need for evaluation for treatment beyond the animal massage therapist's scope of practice.</p>	<p>Sine Die 3/18/20</p>
<p>Maryland</p>	<p><u>MD HB 445</u></p>	<p>Would have prohibited a veterinary practitioner from performing certain declawing procedures on a cat unless the procedure is necessary for a therapeutic purpose.</p>	<p>Sine Die 1/28/20</p>
<p>Michigan</p>	<p><u>MI HB 6009</u></p>	<p>Would have prevented:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tail Docking; 2. Ear Cropping; 3. Devocalization or debarking; 4. Partial or complete onychectomy or phalangectomy including, but not limited to, the removal of the dew claw; 5. Tendonectomy; and 6. Any other surgical procedure that cosmetically or aesthetically alters the physical condition or appearance of a dog for the ease of handling or keeping the dog or to conform to an established breed standard. <p>A veterinarian would have been able to perform these procedures if completed for a therapeutic purpose.</p>	<p>Introduced 7/23/20 Last Action 8/6/20</p>

Minnesota	MN HF 3733	Would have prohibited the declawing of cats except for therapeutic purposes.	Sine Die 2/27/20
New Hampshire	NH HB 1683	Would have prohibited cosmetic and convenience surgery on a dog except as necessary in order to address the physical medical condition. Cosmetic and convenience surgery on dogs is tail docking, tail nicking, setting, or blocking, ear cropping, devocalization or debarking, onychectomy (declawing), and dewclaw removal.	Failed 2/19/20
New Jersey	NJ A 1087 NJ S 920	Would have prohibited declawing or flexor tendonectomy procedure by any means on a cat or other animal, unless the procedure is deemed necessary for a therapeutic purpose by a licensed veterinarian.	Introduced/ Last Action 1/14/20 Introduced 1/27/20 Last Action 2/24/20
New Jersey	NJ A 1211	Would have prohibited cropping or altering the tail or ears of a dog for cosmetic reasons. A licensed veterinarian who crops or alters the tail or ears of a dog as part of a medical procedure for medical reasons would have to prepare and file a written statement with the Department of Health setting forth the veterinary basis for doing so and the name and address of the owner of the dog.	Introduced/ Last Action 1/14/20
New Jersey	NJ A 4075	Would have exempted farriers and horse-shoers from licensed practice of veterinary medicine.	Introduced/ Last Action 5/7/20
New York	NY S 6904	Would have restricted surgical devocalization procedures on dogs and cats.	Introduced 12/13/19 Last Action 1/8/20
Rhode Island	RI HB 7342	Would have prohibited declawing of a cat or other animal unless a licensed veterinarian has determined the procedure is necessary for a therapeutic purpose.	Sine Die 1/29/20
Washington	WA SB 6300	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibits devocalization of a dog or cropping any part of the ear or tail of a dog unless the person is a licensed veterinarian who performs the procedure while the dog is under anesthesia. Defines "pain or suffering" to mean a state of physical or mental lack of well-being or physical or mental uneasiness that ranges from mild discomfort or dull distress to unbearable agony. 	Enacted 3/25/20
West Virginia	WV HB 2119	Would have prohibited the performing of an onychectomy (declawing) or flexor tendonectomy procedure on a cat or other animal.	Sine Die 1/9/20

Service Assistance Animals			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
New York	NY A 707	Would have required medical insurance carriers to provide certain coverage for service animals, including veterinary care, when such animal is deemed medically necessary by a licensed physician.	Introduced 1/9/19 Last Action 1/8/20

Spaying Neutering			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
New Jersey	<u>NJ A 4399</u>	Would have established a fund to provide grants to municipalities and counties to establish programs to humanely trap community cats, sterilize, ear-tip, vaccinate against rabies, and return each community cat to the location where the community cat was trapped.	Introduced/ Last Action 7/16/20
New Mexico	<u>NM SB 57</u>	Imposes an additional fee on pet food for dogs and cats to fund the Dog and Cat Spay and Neuter Assistance Program and the Animal Sheltering Act and establish means-testing for accessing the program.	Enacted 3/6/20

State Programs Board of Veterinary Medicine			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Florida	<u>FL SB 806</u>	Would have exempted certain animal health records from public records requirements including records generated or received by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services or the State Veterinarian in connection with services provided by the Bronson Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. The exemption granted would not have applied to official certificates of veterinary inspection or any document required by law to transport an animal.	Failed 3/14/20
Kentucky	<u>KY HB 238</u>	Removes the residency requirement for both the state veterinarian and the deputy state veterinarian.	Enacted 3/16/20
Maryland	<u>MD SB 189</u> <u>MD HB 545</u>	Authorizes the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners to issue a cease and desist order and impose a civil penalty against a person who practices, attempts to practice, or offers to practice veterinary medicine without a license.	Enacted 5/8/20
Massachusetts	<u>MA HD 953</u>	Would have established a 7-member Commission on Livestock Shelter Requirements. One of the members would have been a representative of the Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association.	Introduced/ Last Action 2/13/20
Minnesota	<u>MN HF 2973</u> <u>MN SF 3838</u>	Would have increased members from 5 to 10 serving on the Board of Animal Health, including three producers of livestock, two practicing veterinarians licensed in Minnesota, and two at-large members. Members would have resided in each of the state's eight congressional districts. Members would have had to be knowledgeable in animal agriculture, animal health, or pets and companion animals, with at least two members representing the public and not be employed in agriculture, veterinary medicine, the pet industry, or a related field.	Sine Die 2/11/20 Sine Die 3/2/20
Minnesota	<u>MN HF 3289</u> <u>MN SF 3503</u>	Would have set the Board of Animal Health membership at 7 and require two members to be licensed Minnesota veterinarians, one of which must be a large animal veterinarian. The dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine and the director of the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory- University of Minnesota could have served as consultants.	Sine Die 2/13/20 2/24/20
Minnesota	<u>MN SF 3481</u> <u>MN HF 3584</u>	Would have established the Minnesota Companion Animal Board to protect and promote the welfare, social well-being, and physical and mental health of companion animals. The board would have had primary authority for regulating companion animals in Minnesota.	Sine Die 3/2/20 Sine Die 3/12/20
New Jersey	<u>NJ A 1992</u> <u>NJ S 347</u>	Would have established the "New Jersey One Health Task Force" to develop a strategic plan to promote inter-disciplinary communication and collaboration between veterinarians, physicians and other scientific professionals and State agencies, to promote the health and	Introduced 1/14/20 Last Action 12/10/20

		well-being of the State's residents, animals, and environment. The 13-member Task Force would have included two New Jersey licensed veterinarians, one of whom would have had to have knowledge, competence, or experience with farm animals.	Introduced 1/14/20 Last Action 9/14/20
Rhode Island	RI HB 7606 RI SB 2463	Would have established an 11-member animal welfare advisory council to advise the governor and general assembly on animal welfare, treatment, health, and safety of companion animals. Membership would have included the RI state veterinarian, a RI licensed veterinarian, and one representative each from the RIVMA, RIVMA Companion Animal Foundation, Potter League for Animals, Providence Animal Rescue League, RI Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, RI Kennel Club, and PawsWatch as well as an animal control officer and a family court magistrate.	Sine Die 2/14/20 Sine Die 2/13/20
Utah	UT HB 285	Enacts a health program for veterinarians and other health care professionals to provide an alternative to public disciplinary action for licensees who have substance use disorders.	Enacted 3/24/20
Virginia	VA SB 891	Requires the Commissioner to employ and direct at least two licensed veterinary technicians, to be known as the State Animal Welfare Inspector, to conduct two annual inspections of each regulated facility (which will not apply to agricultural animals or to any research facility) that keep: 1. Dogs, cats, and rabbits by any commercial dog breeder, dealer, pet shop, or private animal shelter; and 2. Companion animals by zoos not accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.	Enacted 5/21/20
Washington	WA HB 2360	Would have established a sharps waste stewardship program. Prepaid mail-back materials would be provided at no cost including veterinary clinics. The program would have been required to notify all veterinary clinics in the state of the opportunity to participate as a voluntary sharps collection site.	Sine Die 2/4/20
Washington	WA HB 2411	Directs the board of occupational therapy in consultation with the University of Washington's <u>Forefront Suicide Prevention Center of Excellence</u> to develop a suicide prevention training program for veterinarians. The program must: 1. Recognize that veterinarians treat animal patients and have limited interaction with animal patient owners; 2. Focus on mental health and well-being; 3. Include general content on suicide risk, prevention, and resourcing, and specific content on imminent harm by lethal means; and 4. Be three hours in length and the hours spent completing training count toward meeting any applicable continuing education requirements for veterinarians and veterinary technicians.	Enacted 3/31/20

Taxes: Credits Exemptions Sale & Use			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Kentucky	KY HB 28	Would have raised sales and use tax rate to 8% on or after 1/1/21. This category would have included small animal veterinary services (excluding veterinary services for equine, cattle, swine, sheep, goats, llamas, alpacas, ratite birds, buffalo, and cervids; pet care services),	Sine Die 1/7/20

		including but not limited to grooming and boarding services, pet sitting services, and pet obedience training services.	
Kentucky	KY HB 376	Would have provide a sales tax exemption for small animal veterinary services after October 1, 2020 as well as pet adoption fees.	Sine Die 2/6/20
Maine	ME LD 1718 (SP 567)	Provides a sales and use tax exemption for when a non-profit organization purchases pet food and supplies to give to low-income pet owners for little or no charge.	Enacted 1/12/20
Nebraska	NE LB 946	Would have imposed sales and use taxes on all services unless a specific sales tax exemption applies. The bill would have struck the exemption for the gross income received for animal specialty services, veterinary services, specialty services performed on livestock, animal grooming performed by a licensed veterinarian or a licensed veterinary technician in conjunction with medical treatment.	Failed 8/13/20
North Carolina	NC HB 1079	Taxes digital property and online education resources. Provides exemptions from the tax for postsecondary education institutions and in-person learning or live online classes.	Enacted 6/5/20
Rhode Island	RI SB 2056	Would have eliminated the sales tax on pet care services.	Sine Die 1/21/20

Telemedicine Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR)			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Alaska	AK- 5/20/20 - CCED	<p>Would have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Added definition of VCPR that allows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Examination for establishment of a VCPR by means of telemedicine services; and B. A veterinarian to be another veterinarian within the group in which the veterinarian practices, or a veterinarian with whom the veterinarian has consulted; and 2. Defined "telemedicine services" as the delivery of veterinary care by the use of electronic technology or media, including interactive audio or video, for the purpose of diagnosing or treating an animal or consulting with other veterinary care providers regarding an animal's diagnoses or treatment; telemedicine services does not include an audio-only telephone, electronic mail message, facsimile transmission, or online questionnaire. 	Proposed 5/20/20
Florida	FL SB 366	<p>Would have defined:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Patient" as any animal, or any herd, collection, or group of animals, for which the veterinarian practices veterinary medicine; 2. "Physical Examination" to mean the evaluation of a patient by personal inspection, palpation, and auscultation; and 3. "VCPR" to mean a relationship in which the veterinarian: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Has performed a physical examination of the patient, or made timely and medically appropriate visits to the premises where the patient is kept, b. Has assumed responsibility for making medical judgments regarding the health of the patient and its need for medical treatment, or c. Has access to the patient's records and has been designated by a veterinarian with whom the patient had a prior relationship to provide reasonable and appropriate medical care. 	Failed 3/14/20

Florida	FL HB 1015	<p>Would have defined and redefined terms as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "VCPR" means a relationship <u>in which</u> the veterinarian has <u>performed a physical exam of the patient, or made timely and medically appropriate visits to the premises where the patient is kept, and has assumed</u> responsibility for making medical judgments regarding the health of the <u>patient</u> and its need for medical treatment <u>or the veterinarian has access to the patient's records and has been designated by a veterinarian with whom the patient had a prior relationship to provide reasonable and appropriate medical care;</u> 2. "Patient" means any animal, <u>or any herd, collection, or group of animals,</u> for which the veterinarian practices veterinary medicine; and 3. "Physical examination" means the evaluation of a patient by <u>personal inspection, palpation, and auscultation.</u> 	Failed 3/14/20
Michigan	MI HB 6195	<p>Would have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Require a VCPR be established to provide telehealth services; and 2. In state of emergency or large-scale animal cruelty cases, permit licensure of veterinarians and veterinary technicians to practice for 90 days if certain requirements are met. 	Sine Die Failed Last Action 9/15/20
Montana	MT 24-225-41	Would have added the term "physical" to the definition of a VCPR to address questions from the public and licensees regarding the specific type of examination required to initiate a VCPR.	
Nevada	NV #091-20I	Would have established telemedicine services regulations for veterinary medicine and allow establishment of a VCPR by telemedicine.	Proposed 3/13/20
North Carolina	21 NCAC 66.0211	Would allow a veterinarian to provide veterinary care via telemedicine to any patient located in the State after establishing a VCPR and would prohibit a VCPR from being established by electronic means. The proposed effective date is March 1, 2021.	Proposed 6/19/20
Oklahoma	OK HB 3482	Would have redefined "telemedicine" to include: or "telehealth" as the practice of veterinary medicine, including diagnosis, consultation, evaluation, treatment, transfer of medical data or exchange of information by means of a two-way, real-time interactive communication between a client or patient and a veterinarian with access to and reviewing the patient's relevant information prior to the telemedicine visit. Telemedicine or telehealth would not have included consultations provided by telephone audio-only communication. A veterinarian using telehealth technologies would have had to take appropriate steps to establish the VCPR and conduct all appropriate evaluations and history of the patient consistent with traditional standards of care for a patient presentation. A veterinarian would have had to be licensed, or under the jurisdiction of, the veterinary board of the jurisdiction where the patient is located. The practice of medicine would have occurred where the patient was located at the time telehealth technologies were used.	Proposed 11/2/20

Vaccinations Animal Disease			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Delaware	DE HB 214	Enables licensed veterinarians to exempt an animal from the mandated rabies vaccination if they determine the vaccine would	Enacted 7/23/20

		endanger the animal's health. A titer test may be administered to assist in determining the necessity of the vaccine.	
Massachusetts	MA S 2601	Would have allowed for a titer test to be administered to assist in determining the need for a rabies vaccination.	Introduced 3/5/20 Last action 5/7/20
New Jersey	NJ A 1219	Would have prohibited any rabies testing from being performed on a dead domestic companion animal until the health official requiring, or the veterinarian performing, the rabies testing, have notified the owner in writing and the owner providing, in writing, the consent required.	Introduced/ Last Action 1/14/20
New Mexico	NM B- Livestock - 21.30.6	Would have: 1. Included slaughter surveillance to the importation testing; 2. Require only imported non-virgin bulls be accompanied by a negative <i>T. foetus</i> test; 3. Required culled herd sires sold for slaughter to have a negative <i>T. foetus</i> test within 60 days prior to change of ownership; 4. Required Livestock Board (Board) inspection to verify change of possession and appropriate <i>T. foetus</i> testing and placing responsibility for testing on the owner; 5. Required culled herd sires with medical conditions to be tested at the owner's expense and allowing Board inspector or herd veterinarian to exempt bulls with medical conditions if inhumane; and 6. Exempted Certified <i>T. foetus</i> free herds from testing as well as instances where the state veterinarian has determined such testing to be unnecessary based on epidemiological investigation and requires reevaluation of this requirement to be reevaluated by the working Trichomoniasis Committee every two years.	Proposed 11/12/19
Oregon	OR HB 4053	Would have allowed a county to require veterinarians to report dog vaccinations for rabies to the county.	Failed 3/8/20
Rhode Island	RI ID 250-RICR-4 0-05	Would have established a list of animal diseases that are considered injurious to the public and animals within Rhode Island, containing all diseases that are federally reportable, notifiable to the OIE World Organization for Animal Health, and appear on the federal select agent list for bioterrorism.	Proposed 12/31/19
Tennessee	TN SB 2539 TN HB 2788	Would have authorized dog owners to obtain an exemption from the rabies vaccination requirement by obtaining a certificate of exemption from a licensed veterinarian based on a finding that the vaccine would endanger the dog's health. A titer test could have been administered to assist in determining the need for the vaccination.	Failed 3/4/20 Sine Die 3/10/20

Veterinary Technicians Veterinary Assistants			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Louisiana	LA HB 70	Adds veterinary service staff to the list of essential critical infrastructure sector jobs.	Enacted 7/13/20
Oklahoma	OK SB 1787	Would have changed the title of veterinary technician to veterinary nurse.	Sine Die 2/10/20
	OK SB 1788		Sine Die 2/27/20

Utah	<u>UT HB 455</u>	<p>Requires each applicant for state certification as a state-certified veterinary technician to submit an application prescribed by the division in consultation with the board; submit evidence of graduation from an AVMA-accredited program in veterinary technology that is at least two years or an equivalent program as determined by division rule in consultation with the board.</p> <p>"Practice of veterinary technology" means to perform tasks that are related to the care and treatment of animals; delegated by a licensed veterinarian; performed under the direct or indirect supervision of a licensed veterinarian; and permitted by administrative rule and performed in accordance with the standards of the profession.</p>	Enacted 3/31/20
West Virginia	<u>WV HB 4813</u>	<p>Would have removed the registered veterinary technician and animal euthanasia technician certificate designations from the practice act. A licensed veterinarian would have been responsible for ensuring staff performing tasks have received education, training, guidance, and supervision from a licensed veterinarian.</p>	Sine Die 2/11/20

Wet Markets			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
New York	<u>NY A 10399</u>	<p>Would have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Placed a moratorium on the operation of live markets and prohibit the operation of establishments where animals and/or fowl are slaughtered or butchered for food in New York State; and Established a task force to examine the public health risks and animal welfare concerns they present. 	Introduced/ Last Action 5/4/20

Wildlife Zoo Animals			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Connecticut	<u>CT HB 5341</u>	<p>Would have prohibited the sale, transportation, and breeding of whales, dolphins and porpoises.</p>	Sine Die 2/28/20
Florida	<u>FL SB 906</u>	<p>Would have prohibited a person from possessing, importing, or breeding an Iguana or Salvator merianae.</p>	Failed 3/14/20
Indiana	<u>IN HB 1200</u>	<p>Would have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibited declawing or removal of the canine teeth of an exotic or dangerous wild animal unless necessary for treatment of a medical problem; and Allowed an exotic or dangerous wild animal to be humanely destroyed by a law enforcement officer. 	Sine Die 1/13/20
Oklahoma	<u>OK HB 3604</u>	<p>Would have made it unlawful for any person to possess, sell, transfer or breed a dangerous wild animal and allow any member of the public to come into direct contact with a dangerous wild animal. Exempted entities would have included licensed veterinary hospitals for providing treatment to a dangerous wild animal; research facilities; and zoos accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.</p>	Sine Die 2/4/20