



State Legislative Update

April 2023

This issue of the State Legislative Update includes select summaries of bills and regulations tracked by the AVMA Division of State Advocacy and introduced in April . For more information, please contact Ms. Madeline Brezin, Policy Analyst, AVMA Division of State Advocacy (mbrezin@avma.org).

Boards of Veterinary Medicine

Signed by the Governor this month, **Arkansas AR S.B. 403** abolishes several state boards, including the Veterinary Medical Examining Board (VMEB). It transfers the powers, duties, and functions of the VMEB to the Livestock and Poultry Commission.

Education

Supported by the **Arkansas Veterinary Medical Association** and enacted this month, **AR S.B. 476** establishes the Rural Veterinary Student Scholarship Program.

Licensure

In **Florida**, **FL H.B. 719/S.B. 722** was sent to Governor Ron DeSantis for his signature. This bill would allow out-of-state veterinarians to perform dog or cat sterilization services or routine preventative health services at the time of sterilization as an unpaid volunteer under the supervision of a state-licensed veterinarian.

Maryland's MD S.B. 390/MD H.B. 325 passed both houses and was sent to Governor Wes Moore. This bill requires the state's board of veterinary medicine to create an expedited process for a veterinarian licensed in another state to become licensed in Maryland. The new law would also allow a veterinary technician or other clinical staff who work in an animal shelter or an animal control facility to administer rabies vaccines if the animal is under the custody of the shelter or control facility, the veterinarian who signs the certificate has ensured they're properly trained, and the administrator of the vaccine is identified on the certificate.

A new law in **New Mexico (NM H.B. 384)** provides for expedited licensure of out-of-state veterinarians who are in good standing in their jurisdiction and have practiced veterinary medicine for at least five years.

Pet Insurance

Two states enacted legislation related to pet insurance. NE L.B.296 in **Nebraska** and WA H.B. 1101/WA S.B. 5319 in **Washington** both establish a framework for the sale and administration of pet insurance.

In **Louisiana**, LA H.B. 579 would establish guidelines for pet insurance providers, including prohibiting pet insurance providers from marketing wellness programs as pet insurance or making it a requirement for receiving insurance.

Veterinary Technicians

South Carolina introduced SC H.B. 4303, which would create a position called a “certified vaccine technician.” The bill would create training requirements for that position and allow them to administer rabies vaccines in animal control shelters under the supervision of a veterinarian.

Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship & Telemedicine

In **Alaska**, the **Board of Veterinary Examiners** finalized AK 12 AAC 68.215, which establishes the definition of a veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR). After significant input from the AVMA and the **Alaska Veterinary Medical Association**, these regulations require an initial physical meeting with the client and patient where the veterinarian performs a physical examination or is personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the patient through medically appropriate visits to the premises where the patient is maintained. Once established, a VCPR may be maintained by electronic or telephonic means during the 12 months that follow the initial exam or premises visit.

Xylazine

In **Pennsylvania**, Governor Josh Shapiro directed his administration to make xylazine a Schedule III controlled substance.

Awaiting signature by the Governor, legislation in **Tennessee**, TN H.B. 1242/TN S.B. 1398 as amended by Senate Amendment 490, would criminalize possessing, manufacturing, delivering, or selling xylazine. It includes a specific exemption for use in the course of legitimate veterinary practice and possession pursuant to a valid prescription from a licensed veterinarian.

Animal Abuse Cruelty			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Washington	<u>WA H.B. 1234</u>	1. Defines “minimum care” as care sufficient to preserve the physical and mental health and well-being of an animal and	Sent to Executive

		<p>includes food of sufficient nutrition, potable water of drinkable temperature, sufficient shelter, reasonable veterinary care, and access to an area sufficient for exercise;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Permits a seized animal to be placed into the custody of an animal care and control agency, foster care, non-profit humane society, rescue organization, or animal sanctuary but constructive custody belongs to the seizing agency; and, Permits a custodial agency to authorize a veterinarian or veterinary technician to euthanize a seized animal that is severely injured, sick, diseased, or suffering for humane reasons. 	4/18/2023
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Animal Disease | Vaccination

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
North Carolina	NC S.B. 511 / NC H.B. 600	Would allow healthy cats impounded at a shelter to be sterilized, ear-tipped, vaccinated for rabies, administered other vaccinations as recommended by the treating veterinarian, and released back to the location where they were trapped.	Introduced 4/3/2023

Education

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Arkansas	AR S.B. 476	Establishes the Rural Veterinary Student Scholarship Program.	Enacted 4/11/2023

Emergency | First Responders

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Arizona	AZ S.B. 1068	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Require every ambulance service to authorize its EMCTs to provide, if trained, emergency treatment and transportation to a police dog injured in the line of duty, along with police officer or other police personnel, who are medically trained, to a veterinary clinic or hospital equipped to provide emergency treatment; Stipulate that emergency treatment and transportation are only to be provided to a police dog if there is not a person requiring emergency medical treatment or transport at that time; Permit ambulance services to develop, in consultation with specified entities, policies, and procedures relating to Training EMCTs to provide police dogs with basic level emergency care, safe handling procedures for injured police dogs, identifying local veterinary facilities that will provide emergency treatment on short notice, decontamination of the patient compartment and medical equipment, and sterilization of an ambulance or other emergency vehicle; and, Assert that EMCTs and other medical personnel who, in the performance of their duties and in good faith, render emergency medical services to an injured police dog are not personally liable as a result of rendering such services. 	Amended 3/20/2023

Euthanasia			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Indiana	<u>IN S.B. 0423</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Permits an animal impound agency to euthanize an animal if a veterinarian determines that the animal is a serious threat to others or if it is in the best interest of the animal's welfare; and, Provides civil liability for a veterinarian acting within the scope of this section. 	Enacted 4/20/2023

Licensure			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Florida	<u>FL H.B. 719/S.B. 722</u>	Would allow out-of-state veterinarians to perform dog or cat sterilization services or routine preventative health services at the time of sterilization as an unpaid volunteer under the supervision of a state-licensed veterinarian.	Sent to Executive 4/19/2023
Maryland	<u>MD S.B. 390/MD H.B. 325</u>	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Require the board to create an expedited process for a veterinarian licensed in another state to become licensed in Maryland; and, Allow a veterinary technician or other clinical staff who work in an animal shelter or an animal control facility to administer rabies vaccines if the animal is under the custody of the shelter or control facility, the veterinarian who signs the certificate has ensured they're properly trained, and the administrator of the vaccine is identified on the certificate. 	Sent to Executive 4/6/2023
New Mexico	<u>NM H.B. 384</u>	Provides for expedited licensure of out-of-state veterinarians who are in good standing in their jurisdiction and have practiced veterinary medicine for at least five years.	Enacted 4/6/2023
Oregon	<u>OR OAR 875-010-0026</u>	Would allow a veterinarian to practice veterinary medicine in Oregon for up to 30 days without an Oregon license or with an inactive license to be in accordance with current statute.	Published 4/18/2023

Livestock			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
North Carolina	<u>NC H.B. 259</u>	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Create and appropriate funds for the Large Animal Healthcare Enhancement Fund to make grants to encourage veterinary students to enter and stay in large animal veterinarian practice and to support large animal veterinarian practices to enable them to better serve their designated counties; Create the Large Animal Healthcare Enhancement Advisory Committee, of which two members must be practicing large animal veterinarians; Set grant eligibility for large animal veterinarians who practice or plan to practice in one or more designated counties at up to \$25,000 per fiscal year; and, Would allow grant funds to be used for vet school loan repayment and large animal veterinary equipment. 	Introduced 4/3/2023
North Carolina	<u>NC H.B. 659</u>	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Require the Board of Agriculture, in consultation with the State Veterinarian, to establish humane standards for cows, poultry, and swine including reducing tethering with an exemption for veterinary care; Require a farm owner or operator to ensure that all on-farm killing of cows or swine be performed in a humane manner 	Introduced 4/17/2023

		using methods explicitly deemed "acceptable" by the American Veterinary Medical Association; and, 3. Prohibit the strangulation of cows and swine as a form of euthanasia.	
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Pet Insurance

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Louisiana	LA H.B. 579	Would: 1. Establish definitions for "chronic condition," "congenital anomaly or disorder," "hereditary disorder," "orthopedic conditions," and "preexisting conditions" as it relates to pet insurance; 2. Establish guidelines for pet insurance providers; and, 3. Prohibit pet insurance providers from marketing wellness programs as pet insurance, nor make it a requirement for receiving insurance.	Introduced 3/31/2023
Nebraska	NE L.B.296	Establishes a legal framework for the sale of pet insurance.	Enacted 4/21/2023
Washington	WA H.B. 1101/ WA S.B. 5319	Establishes a framework to provide pet insurance.	Enacted 4/6/2023

Pharmaceuticals | Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Arkansas	AR H.B. 1662	1. Exempts the sale of veterinary drugs and medicine from the licensure requirements for a pharmacist and a pharmacy if the sale is based on a prescription of a licensed veterinarian; and, 2. Declares an emergency related to the FDA's June 2023 guidance on over-the-counter (OTC) antibiotics used in the production of livestock and feed.	Enacted 4/7/2023
Tennessee	TN H.B. 1242/TN S.B. 1398 As Amended by SA 490	Would criminalize possessing, manufacturing, delivering, or selling xylazine, but exempts legitimate veterinary practice and possession by non-veterinarians with valid prescriptions from a licensed veterinarian	Sent to Executive 4/21/2024

Small Business

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Indiana	IN S.B. 277 / IN H.B. 1389	Would: 1. Require animal facilities, including veterinary offices and overnight boarding facilities, constructed or remodeled after June 23, 2023, to have either an operating fire alarm system designed by a fire alarm technician or staff on duty any time a dog or cat is present; and, 2. Allow the local fire department or the Department of Homeland Security to periodically inspect all animal facilities.	Sent to Executive 4/13/2023

Spaying Neutering			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
New York	NY S.B. 6336	Would require cats and dogs who are neutered or spayed by a veterinarian to be held for twenty-four hours after the procedure to monitor for adverse effects and to undergo a follow-up exam within twenty-four hours after such procedure by a duly licensed veterinarian.	Introduced 4/14/2023

State Programs Board of Veterinary Medicine			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Arkansas	AR S.B. 403	Abolishes several state boards, including the Veterinary Medical Examining Board, and transfers the powers, duties, and functions of the VMEB to the Livestock and Poultry Commission.	Enacted 4/11/2023
Indiana	IN S. 0004	Would permit a veterinarian, and other health-related professionals, to be a member of the local board of health for counties with a population of less than 200,000.	Sent to Executive 4/28/2023
Minnesota	MN H.F. 2278	Would: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Expand the Board of Animal Health from six to eleven members (two at-large members, one member of a federally recognized Tribe in the state, and eight regional members with no two from the same congressional districts); and, Appropriate \$250,000 to purchase equipment for the Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. 	Amended 4/11/2023

Taxes & Credits Exemptions Sale & Use			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Florida	FL S.P.B. 7062	Would include the purchase for non-commercial use of cat and dog food, over-the-counter pet medications, portable kennels/pet carriers, leashes, collars, muzzles, food and water bowls, litter, litter pans, pet waste bags, pet pads, hamster or rabbit substrate, and pet beds to the state's disaster preparedness tax holiday qualifying items list.	Introduced 4/13/2023
Pennsylvania	PA S.B. 620	Would create exclusions from the state's sale and use tax for guide dogs, hearing dogs, and service dogs for related products and services, including veterinary services, diagnostic procedures, and prescription and nonprescription drugs.	Introduced 4/25/2023

Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship Telemedicine			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Alaska	AK 12 AAC 68.215	Defines a veterinarian-client-patient relationship as: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Conducting an initial physical meeting with the client and patient where the veterinarian performs a physical examination, or is personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the patient through medically appropriate visits to the premises where the patient is maintained; Having sufficient knowledge of the patient to initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis of the patient's medical conditions; Assuming responsibility for making clinical judgments for the health of the patient and the need for medical therapy; Maintaining patient records; and, Providing oversight of treatment and being readily available to provide follow-up care in the event of adverse reactions or failure of the treatment regimen. Also:	Finalized 4/6/2023

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Permits a VCPR to be maintained by electronic or telephonic means during the 12 months that follow the initial exam or premises visit; 2. Permits a licensed veterinarian or client to decline or discontinue a VCPR; 3. Does not require a VCPR if a licensed veterinarian provides emergency care in good faith; and, 4. Permits initial evaluations of a patient through electronic or telephonic means in regions of the state where there is no locally available veterinarian if travel is impossible; the veterinarian requests that, when reasonably achievable, the patient be presented for an in-person examination or that the veterinarian conduct a medically appropriate visit to the premises where the patient is kept; and the veterinarian provides the client with the veterinarian's identity and clinic address. 	
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Veterinary Technicians Veterinary Assistants			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Arkansas	<u>AR H.B. 1566</u>	Prohibits a Veterinary Technician Specialist from receiving compensation for performing Specialized Veterinary Technology.	Enacted 4/4/2023
Mississippi	<u>MS Proposed Adoption of Revised Postsecondary Career and Technical Education Curricula 67</u>	Would revise the Veterinary Technician curriculum framework at community colleges.	Published 4/4/2023
New Hampshire	<u>VET 102.01</u>	Would amend the definition of "veterinary technician" to create a training and testing requirement and title protection.	Proposed 4/6/2023 Closed for Comment 5/30/2023
South Carolina	<u>SC H.B. 4303</u>	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a position called "certified vaccine technician" (CVT); 2. Require CVT training to include a class taught by a South Carolina veterinarian or taught by an individual or entity approved by the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, training in vaccinating pets, and six months of experience in vaccinating pets under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian; 3. Require CVTs to be re-trained every two years; 4. Require CVTs to work at a regulated animal control shelter under the direct or indirect supervision of a veterinarian; 5. Allow CVTs to administer rabies vaccines and sign rabies vaccine certificates if they include their supervising veterinarian's name and address; and, 6. Clarify a VCPR is unnecessary for the administration of vaccines that are approved by the state's Department of Health and Environmental Control and licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture. 	Introduced 4/6/2023