



State Legislative Update

January 2024

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 January. For more information, please contact Madeline Brezin, Policy Analyst, AVMA Division of State Advocacy (mbrezin@avma.org).

Mid-Level Position

In **Colorado**, CO Initiative #145 was filed that would establish a “veterinary professional associate” and define it as an individual who holds a master’s degree in veterinary clinical care. The AVMA opposes any initiatives that would authorize a non-veterinarian to diagnose, prognose, develop treatment plans, prescribe, and/or perform surgery, due to the threat from such legislation to patient health and safety, the safety of animal products, and public health. You can learn more about AVMA’s stance on this issue [here](#).

Non-Economic Damages | Malpractice

In **Arizona**, three bills were introduced related to damages and the malpractice of veterinary medicine. AZ S.B. 1199 would permit a person who prevails in a malpractice action against a veterinarian to receive the fair market value of the domesticated dog or cat, the cost of all medical expenses resulting from the malpractice activity, and up to \$10,000 for the person’s future loss of companionship for the death of the person’s domesticated dog or cat. AZ S.B. 1200 would amend the statute related to the unprofessional or dishonorable conduct of a veterinarian, including increasing the civil penalty to not more than \$1,900 for unprofessional or dishonorable conduct and permitting the licensing board to increase the penalty for inflation in the future. Finally, AZ S.B. 1202 would entitle a person who prevails in a private right of action to the fair market value of the animal or reasonable cost of replacement of the animal (in case of the death of the animal) and the cost of medical expenses related to the action.

New Hampshire introduced NH H.B. 1684. This bill would allow a person to recover damages for loss or impairment of the right of consortium (companionship) involving the death of that person’s pet when the death is caused intentionally or recklessly.

Pharmaceuticals | Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMP)

Maine introduced ME L.D. 2139 (H.P. 1363), which would expand the required reporting on controlled substances under the Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program to include drugs, substances, and chemicals listed in the federally determined Schedule V.

Maryland introduced MD S.B. 0235/MD H.B. 0057. This bill would include veterinarians in the definition of "dispenser" for purposes of the PDMP when dispensing controlled substances for animals and provide that the PDMP is not required to disclose prescription drug monitoring data to veterinarians.

New Jersey introduced NJ A. 380, which would require prescriptions for animals to be issued in the name of the animal owner and prohibit unnamed persons from possessing prescribed drugs. This bill would also require veterinarians to review relevant prescription monitoring information obtained under the New Jersey PDMP before prescribing a controlled substance and mandate pharmacy permit holders to submit to the Division of Consumer Affairs, which houses the PDMP, information about controlled substances prescribed by a veterinarian for use by an animal.

Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR) | Telemedicine

In **Colorado**, there is both legislation and a ballot initiative related to the VCPR and telemedicine. CO H.B. 24-1048 would clarify that an examination to establish a VCPR must be an in-person, physical examination and extend a VCPR to other licensed veterinarians who share the same physical premises as the veterinarian who established the VCPR if there is access to and they have reviewed the patient's medical records, including via telemedicine. It also permits a licensed veterinarian who has established a VCPR to use telehealth to provide veterinary services to clients and patients in Colorado with the consent of the client and to refer a patient to a veterinary specialist who may provide veterinary services via telemedicine under the referring veterinarian's VCPR. The Board of Veterinary Medicine is also authorized to establish rules for the use of telehealth to provide veterinary services and further clarifies that only a licensed veterinarian with an established VCPR may prescribe medication using telemedicine.

CO Initiative #144 was also filed in **Colorado**, which would permit a VCPR to be established by an electronic examination using an audio-video-based form of communication. It would prohibit a veterinarian practicing veterinary telehealth from ordering, prescribing, or making available a controlled substance unless the veterinarian has previously performed an in-person physical examination or has made medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the patient is kept.

Opposed by the **Utah Veterinary Medical Association** and the AVMA, UT H.B. 145 would repeal the prohibition on establishing a VCPR solely through electronic or telephonic means. It would also authorize veterinary telehealth services if the service or treatment through telehealth services meets the standards of the veterinary profession and prohibit a licensed veterinarian from prescribing a controlled substance to an animal

unless it is an emergency situation, and the prescribed dosage is limited to an amount necessary to facilitate the animal obtaining appropriate care.

The AVMA is the lead partner for the **Coalition for Connected Veterinary Care** and works across the veterinary and animal health industry to enhance and expand care by leveraging technology while safeguarding the welfare of animals and people. You can read more about telemedicine and the VCPR [here](#).

Xylazine

Delaware introduced [DE S.B. 207](#), which would remove the sunset provision from the law that made xylazine a Schedule III in 2023.

Illinois introduced two xylazine measures this month. [IL H.B. 4352](#) would make xylazine a Schedule II controlled substance without a veterinary medicine exemption, while [IL H.B. 4450](#) would make xylazine a Schedule III controlled substance without a veterinary medicine exemption.

[IN H.B. 1203](#) which, as introduced, would have made xylazine a Schedule II controlled substance without a veterinary use exemption. Thanks to the advocacy of the **Indiana Veterinary Medical Association**, the Indiana House Courts and Criminal Code Committee have amended the bill to include a veterinary medicine exemption.

In **Nebraska**, [NE L.B. 892](#) would classify xylazine as a Schedule III drug and does not have a veterinary exemption at the time of its introduction.

New Jersey introduced [NJ S. 191/NJ A. 1526](#), which would classify xylazine as a Schedule III controlled dangerous substance with a veterinary medicine exemption. New Jersey also introduced a resolution, [NJ S.R. 12/NJ A.R. 82](#), that would urge the New Jersey Department of Health to increase public awareness of the effects of xylazine.

In **South Dakota**, [SD H.B. 1028](#) would classify xylazine as a Schedule III controlled substance, but provides an exemption for dispensing, prescribing, administering, manufacturing, or distributing xylazine when done for an animal and has been approved by the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Virginia [VA S.B. 614/VA H.B. 1187](#), which as introduced, would have added xylazine to the list of Schedule III drugs in the state without a veterinary medical exemption. Thanks to efforts by the **Virginia Veterinary Medical Association**, the language was replaced with a committee substitute measure which would now criminalize the

manufacturing, selling, giving, distributing, or possessing xylazine with a veterinary medicine exemption.

Animal Abuse Cruelty			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Iowa	<u>IA S.F. 2180</u>	Would redefine “sex act” with an animal and explicitly exclude the accepted veterinary medical practices for animal husbandry, insemination of animals for procreation, or related to conformation judging.	Introduced 1/31/2024
Kansas	<u>KS H.B. 2542</u>	Would: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Redefine “adequate watering” for cats and dogs to mean a supply of clean, fresh, and potable water made continuously available unless part of a documented program of routine veterinary care for a medical reason or unless the dog or cat is being transported; 2. Repeal the exclusion of USDA-licensed animal breeders or animal distributors from providing “adequate veterinary medical care;” 3. Permit the owner of an animal that has been seized or impounded to provide cash or security bond to prevent the sale, placement, or euthanasia of an animal pending final adjudication following the disposition hearing; and, 4. Require the Commissioner to develop and provide procedures on pet animal care practices including, but not limited to, management for the well-being of animals, disease prevention and management, operation biosecurity measures, accepted medical recommendations established by the AVMA, and identification of neglect and cruelty to animals. 	Introduced 1/18/2024
Kentucky	<u>KY S.B. 119</u>	Would prohibit individuals found guilty of animal cruelty from harboring, owning, possessing, exercising control over, living with, or working/volunteering in a place where they have unsupervised access to an animal for a minimum of five years following the completion of their sentence.	Introduced 1/22/2024
Kentucky	<u>KY H.B. 258</u>	Would amend the state’s companion animal torture statute to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allow, under the recommendation of a veterinarian, a tortured dog or cat to be euthanized after it’s seized if it’s still alive but suffering from the intentional torture that would lead to its death; and, 2. Clarify breed-specific alterations such as cropping of ears, docking of tails, or declawing of a cat, when performed by a veterinarian, are not considered torture of an animal. 	Filed 1/16/2024
New Jersey	<u>NJ S. 436/NJ A. 744</u>	Would: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create an animal abuse registry in the state; 2. Require offenders whose risk of re-offense is moderate to high to notify veterinarian offices in their community per the guidelines and procedures for notification; and, 3. Allow animal rescue groups and veterinarians to use the registry to screen adoption and job applicants. 	Filed 1/10/2024
New Jersey	<u>NJ A. 129</u>	Would: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not permit euthanasia for seized animals unless a veterinarian makes a written determination that the animal is in intractable and extreme pain and beyond any reasonable 	Filed 1/10/2024

		<p>hope of recovery with reasonable veterinary medical treatment; and,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Require, if found not liable, the owner to be refunded for all costs of caring for the animal during the seizure except necessary veterinary care, unless the veterinary care is contested as not necessary, and the veterinarian cannot provide evidence as to its necessity. 	
New Jersey	<u>NJ A. 291</u>	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Require veterinarians, veterinary technicians, or any person who has reasonable cause to believe an animal has been subjected to an act of animal cruelty to report the suspected violation to the appropriate law enforcement officer; and, Create civil and criminal immunity for a person who, in good faith, reports a suspected animal cruelty or a suspected violation of the standards or rules and regulations concerning domestic livestock established pursuant to state law. 	Filed 1/10/2024
New Jersey	<u>NJ A. 1382</u>	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Establish an animal cruelty offender registry; Require offenders with a moderate to high risk of re-offense to notify specific entities in their community including animal shelters and veterinary offices; Allow entities connected to animals, including veterinary offices and animal rescues, to use the registry to screen employment applicants; and, Prohibit the purchase, adoption, and breeding of animals by animal cruelty offenders. 	Filed 1/10/2024
Tennessee	<u>TN S.B. 1957/TN H.B. 2079</u>	<p>Would allow a licensed veterinarian acting within their professional capacity and in a current VCPR to report suspected animal abuse with reasonable cause and is immune from any civil and criminal liability for reporting.</p>	Introduced 1/25/2024
Vermont	<u>VT S. 292</u>	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a Division of Animal Welfare, within the Vermont Department of Public Safety, to uphold the animal welfare laws of Vermont through communication, education, and enforcement; Establish an Animal Welfare Council to advise the Director of Animal Welfare on matters pertaining to animal welfare, one member of which must represent the interests of veterinarians; Require animal shelters and rescues to obtain a license from the Division of Animal Welfare and outlines operation and reporting requirements; Require pet shops to obtain a license from the Division of Animal Welfare and outlines operation and reporting requirements; Require those who import or place an animal into Vermont to obtain a license from the Division of Animal Welfare and lists requirements for importation like vaccinations, veterinary care, and health certificates; and, Require import organizations to dispense medication to an adopter of an animal with behavioral issues based on recommendations of the veterinarian of record. 	Introduced 1/17/2024
Vermont	<u>VT H. 626</u>	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Establish the Division of Animal Welfare at the Department of Public Safety to develop, implement, and administer a centralized program for investigating and enforcing animal 	Introduced 1/3/2023

		<p>welfare requirements in the State and require one member to represent the interests of veterinarians;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Outline standards for the operation of animal shelters and animal rescue organizations; and, Outline requirements for the importation or transportation of animals into the state. 	
West Virginia	<u>WV H.B. 5044</u>	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Add withholding veterinary care by a licensed veterinarian to the state's animal cruelty statute; Allow seizure of the animal in certain alleged animal cruelty situations; and, Require repeat offenders of animal cruelty offenses to be added to a state-wide, publicly available, do not adopt or sell registry. 	Introduced 1/23/2024
West Virginia	<u>WV H.B. 5146</u>	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Create a companion animal owner's duty of care statute and include veterinary care when needed to prevent suffering or disease transmission; and, Create remedies for owners who buy dogs that were unfit for sale, the owner would be required to obtain written verification from a licensed veterinarian that the dog's illness/disease existed prior to delivery of the dog. 	Introduced 1/25/2024

Animal Advocate | Court

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
New Jersey	<u>NJ S. 282/NJ A. 2456</u>	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a two-year Statewide Animal Advocate Program in the Administrative Office of the Courts; and, Allow, in criminal proceedings that affect the welfare or care of an animal, the court to order, upon its own initiative or upon request of a party, that a separate advocate be appointed to represent the best interests of justice and the animal. 	Filed 1/10/2024

Animal Disease | Vaccination

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Arizona	<u>AZ S.B. 1146</u>	Would prohibit the State Veterinarian from requiring or administering an mRNA vaccine that has not received full approval from the USDA or FDA.	Introduced 1/17/2024
Arizona	<u>AZ S.B. 1648</u>	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Permit aquaculture, livestock, or poultry products that have not received an mRNA vaccine to be labeled as "mRNA Free" in black text on an orange background; and, Prohibit the State Veterinarian from requiring or administering an mRNA vaccine that has not received full approval from the USDA or FDA. 	Introduced 1/29/2024
Arizona	<u>AZ H.B. 2406</u>	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Permit aquaculture, livestock, or poultry products that have not received an mRNA vaccine to be labeled as "mRNA Free" in black text on an orange background; and, Prohibit the State Veterinarian from requiring or administering an mRNA vaccine that has not received full approval from the USDA or FDA. 	Introduced 1/11/2024
California	<u>CA A.B. 2012</u>	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Require the State Department of Public Health to collect rabies control program data from each city, city and county, or county in the state; and; 	Introduced 1/31/2024

		2. Authorize the Department to contract out this requirement to a California-accredited veterinary school.	
Kentucky	<u>KY H.B. 229</u>	Would: 1. Require products that are or might be gene therapy products to be conspicuously labeled as such; and, 2. Require any entity that makes a product available in the state that could infect, transmit to, or be absorbed in any individual in any way that would act as a medical intervention, vaccine, drug, or genetic modification to obtain informed consent from all individuals who could be exposed to that product before exposure could occur.	Filed 1/10/2024
Kentucky	<u>KY H.B. 328</u>	Would: 1. Allow licensed veterinary technicians to administer rabies vaccines; 2. Require a licensed veterinarian to sign the animal's vaccination certificate; and, 3. Require qualified individuals who vaccinate their own dog(s) to comply with state regulations.	Introduced 1/22/2024
Mississippi	<u>MS H.B. 714</u>	Would prohibit the administration or inoculation of any vaccine developed using mRNA for use in any livestock, aquacultural specimen, poultry, produce, or other food product intended for human consumption in this state	Introduced 1/29/2024
Tennessee	<u>TN S.B. 1760</u>	Would: 1. Require the Tennessee Department of Agriculture to publish on its website a list of all vaccines that are approved for use in livestock or poultry in the state; and, 2. Require the list of approved vaccines to be divided into two separate lists, one for genetically engineered vaccines and the other for vaccines that are not.	Filed 1/12/2024
Tennessee	<u>TN S.B. 2543/TN H.B. 2801</u>	Would exempt livestock and poultry producers who do not vaccinate any livestock or poultry that are kept at the same location from orders from the Tennessee Commissioner of Agriculture or State Veterinarian that require animals be vaccinated.	Filed 1/31/2024
Virginia	<u>VA S.B. 412</u>	Would allow a releasing agency, in conjunction with a rabies clinic, to provide certain vaccinations and microchip animals.	Filed 1/9/2024

Animal Shelters

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Colorado	<u>CO S.B.24-045</u>	Would prohibit any animal shelter or pet animal rescue or facility from releasing a dog or cat to a prospective owner unless the animal has been sterilized, except in cases in which sterilization would jeopardize the life or health of the dog or cat or, if the rescue or facility has limited access to licensed veterinarians, may be granted an exemption from the sterilization requirement by the Commissioner of Agriculture.	Introduced 1/12/2024
Colorado	<u>CO H.B.24-1114</u>	Would require an animal shelter or a pet animal rescue to notify each animal shelter and pet animal rescue in the state before euthanizing a pet animal so that another animal shelter or pet animal rescue may take possession of the animal if it wants the pet animal. This requirement does not apply to a pet animal that is irremediably suffering; a dog adjudicated to be dangerous; a dog ordered to be euthanized by a court; or, a dog with a history of repeated unprovoked biting prior to the current impound, as documented by an agency charged with enforcing state or local animal laws.	Introduced 1/26/2024

Delaware	<u>4501 Regulations for Animals Held in Shelter</u>	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Require shelters to create protocols for behavioral enrichment and have all veterinary care protocols approved annually by their advising veterinarian; 2. Require animals admitted overnight to receive their vaccinations by noon; 3. Require all animals entering the shelter be evaluated at intake for signs of infectious disease, injury, or illness requiring emergency care; 4. Require a full exam (requirements listed in regulation) be performed within 48 hours of entering the shelter and prior to adoption; 5. Require animals held at a shelter for a year to receive an exam by a veterinarian every 12 months; 6. Require animals in isolation or quarantine to not be in areas accessible by the public and enclosures of animals with suspected contagious disease to be clearly marked to indicate the condition and any necessary precautions; 7. Require isolation and quarantine areas to be separated by species and meet the medical and behavioral needs of sick animals; and, 8. Update information required to be maintained in animal shelter records. 	Effective 1/11/2024
Massachusetts	<u>MA S. 2569</u>	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish an Animal Advisory Board to advise the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture on issues relating, but not limited to, shelters, animal control officers, animal inspectors, training, and best practices; and, 2. Require three members be veterinarians — one must be certified by the Association of Shelter Veterinarians, one must be experienced in companion animal work, and one must have livestock/farm experience. 	Introduced 1/29/2024
Nebraska	<u>NE L.B. 1142</u>	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Define an “animal control entity” as an animal rescue, animal shelter, or rabies control authority; 2. Require an animal control entity that captures or receives any animal to make a reasonable attempt to identify the owner of the animal and contact the owner (via phone, mail, or email) or post a photograph of the animal on their website within seventy-two hours; and, 3. Prohibit an animal control entity from putting an animal up for adoption, sale, or disposal until a photograph of such animal has been posted for at least ten days. 	Introduced 1/11/2024
New Jersey	<u>NJ S. 706</u>	Would allow a veterinarian to transfer ownership of an animal to a suitable home or animal shelter in circumstances where the owner has brought the animal to the veterinarian for euthanasia for a behavioral issue, but the animal is in good health and does not pose a permanent threat to public safety. The veterinarian would be required to inform the original owner of the ownership transfer.	Filed 1/10/2024
New Jersey	<u>NJ S. 849</u>	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a safe haven program for domestic companion animals, allowing individuals to leave their animals with specified individuals at any shelter, pound, veterinary hospital, or police station in the state; 2. Require specified facilities to display a conspicuous sign with listed information; and, 	Filed 1/10/2024

		3. Allow the person turning over the animal to remain anonymous and not share background information or the medical history of the animal.	
New Jersey	NJ S. 1657	Would prohibit impounding a cat or dog in a shelter, pound, or kennel without the consent of the other party in a marriage dissolution action.	Filed 1/10/2024
New Jersey	NJ A. 1422	Would prohibit euthanizing animals in shelters or pounds for any reason other than health or safety reasons.	Filed 1/10/2024
New Jersey	NJ A. 1546	Would prohibit the use of fireworks on property adjacent to an animal shelter, pound, or kennel.	Filed 1/10/2024
New Jersey	NJ A. 1780	<p>Would require:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Every animal rescue organization facility, shelter, pound, and pet shop in New Jersey to establish an animal's health, behavioral, and medical history before offering the animal for adoption or sale by obtaining and retaining records of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. A physical exam by a licensed veterinarian upon receipt of an animal and again at least 14 days before the adoption; b. A behavioral and psychological assessment by a certified animal behaviorist, psychologist, or trainer, including a safety and temperament certification; and, c. Other background information if available, including any history of dangerous behavior. 2. Animal rescue organizations to register with the State; and, 3. Animal rescues, pet shops, shelters, and pounds to notify, in writing, a person adopting or purchasing an animal of the animal's behavioral and medical history and must get the adopter/purchaser to sign a verifying they received the written disclosure. 	Filed 1/10/2024

Companion Animals

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Colorado	CO H.B.24-1163	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish the Pet Animal Registration Enterprise in the Department of Agriculture; 2. Require pet animal owners to register the pet animal in the system annually for a fee set by the enterprise, which must be no more than \$8.50 annually per pet animal with a designated caregiver, \$16 annually per pet animal that is a dog or cat that is not neutered or spayed and has a designated caregiver, and \$25 annually per pet animal without a designated caregiver; and, 3. Require the fees to develop, implement, maintain, and administer the system and reimburse animal shelters for the cost of taking custody of a pet animal for which a caregiver cannot be located or has refused to take custody. 	Introduced 1/31/2024
Maryland	MD S.B. 0157	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Require persons transferring dogs without a microchip to have a microchip implanted by a veterinarian; 2. Require owners of a dog with a microchip to keep current contact information with the microchip registration company; and, 3. Allow only a veterinarian, animal shelter, and animal rescue organization to release the chip identification number of a found dog to the finder of the dog on request. 	Filed 1/10/2024

Michigan	<u>MI S.B. 0683</u>	Would, in instances where a judge finds a dog is dangerous but that it does not need to be euthanized, require a veterinarian to implant a microchip in the animal.	Filed 1/11/2024
Washington	<u>WA H.B. 2403</u>	Would require kennels and kennel operators for cats and dogs to meet higher fire safety standards.	Introduced 1/16/2024
West Virginia	<u>WV H.B. 4935</u>	Would: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create an owner's duty of care to companion animals which includes ensuring proper treatment and, when necessary, euthanasia; 2. Outline what dog breeding operations must share with buyers, including veterinary and health history, including a statement signed by a licensed veterinarian that authorizes the sale of the dog; and, 3. Outline remedies and requirements for purchasers of dogs from breeders who were unfit for sale, including verification from a licensed veterinarian that the issue existed prior to the delivery of the dog. 	Filed 1/19/2024

Education			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Hawaii	<u>HI S.B. 3262</u>	Would: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expand the authorized uses of the special fund to include providing loan repayments to veterinarians and scholarships for students attending a veterinary college if the recipient commits to work in the State for a period of time determined by the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine; 2. Require the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine to establish a loan repayment and scholarship program; and, 3. Establish a fee (\$60) for persons obtaining or renewing a veterinarian license. 	Introduced 1/24/2024
Kentucky	<u>KY H.B. 400</u>	Would allow Murray State University to offer doctor's degrees required for professional practice and licensure in veterinary medicine.	Introduced 1/29/2024
Nebraska	<u>NE L.B. 1062</u>	Would establish a loan repayment program to provide financial incentives (up to \$30,000/year; not more than \$90,000 per recipient) to eligible veterinarians who agree to provide at least fifty percent of their veterinary services to livestock in rural areas of the state for at least three years.	Introduced 1/8/2024
New Jersey	<u>NJ A. 725</u>	Would: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish a veterinary medicine loan redemption program for licensed, in-state veterinarians who work at an approved site and whose practices are at least 75% dedicated to large animal care for five years at full-time; 2. Limit the amount of redeemable qualifying expenses to \$30,000 in any year; 3. Define an "approved site" as a state-designated veterinary underserved area, designated by the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with the New Jersey Horse Council, the New Jersey Association of Equine Practitioners, the New Jersey Veterinary Medical Association, and the New Jersey Farm Bureau based on a large animal veterinarian shortage affecting the area; and, 4. Prohibit recipients from participating in this program and the federally administered Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program simultaneously. 	Filed 1/10/2024
New Jersey	<u>NJ A. 1218</u>	Would:	Filed 1/10/2024

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish a veterinary medicine loan redemption program for licensed, in-state veterinarians who work at an approved site and whose practices are majority dedicated to the protection and enhancement of large animal health and productivity; 2. Limit the amount of redeemable qualifying expenses not to exceed \$20,000 in any year for full-time service or \$10,000 in any year for half-time service; and, 3. Prohibit recipients from participating in this program and the federally administered Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program simultaneously. 	
New Jersey	NJ A. 3255	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish a Large Animal Veterinarian Loan Redemption Program for licensed, in-state veterinarians who work at an approved site and whose practices are majority dedicated to the protection and enhancement of large animal health and productivity; 2. Require eligible applicants to be a resident of the state, be a graduate of a veterinary school approved by the State, have completed a professional residency program and received a recommendation from the director of the training program concerning participation in the loan redemption program, and agree to practice large animal veterinary medicine in a state-designated underserved area in compliance with the conditions of the program; and, 3. Allow for maximum redemption of 100% of eligible qualifying loan expenses for five full years of service. 	Filed 1/10/2024
Vermont	VT H. 819	Would clarify that the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation grants and scholarships, including those enrolled in a program leading to the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, must be for a program located in Vermont.	Introduced 1/12/2024
Virginia	VA S.B. 266	Would increase additional training hours required for animal control officers every three years from 15 hours to 24 hours.	Prefiled 1/9/2024

Emergency | First Responders

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Illinois	77 Ill. Adm. Code 515 (Section 515.550)	Would direct EMS Systems that choose to transport police dogs injured in the line of duty to develop written policies or procedures for basic level first aid and safe handling procedures, identification of local veterinary facilities that will provide emergency treatment and decontamination and disinfection of supplies and space.	Proposed 1/5/2024 Closed for Comment 2/19/2024
Iowa	IA S.F. 2031	Would permit an emergency care provider to diagnose or treat a police service dog if the dog has been severely injured on duty and the veterinary medical services must be necessary to immediately stabilize the dog's condition.	Introduced 1/9/2024
Maine	ME L.D. 2156 (H.P. 1380)	Would allow EMS professionals to perform emergency medical treatment to certain dogs in accordance with protocols adopted by the Maine Medical Direction and Practices Board.	Filed 1/2/2024
Virginia	VA H.B. 137	Would direct the Virginia Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board to develop, in consultation with the State Veterinarian, requirements and authorizations for the provision of emergency treatment to police dogs injured in the line of duty and transportation of injured police dogs by EMS vehicles to a veterinary care facility equipped to provide emergency treatment to injured police dogs.	Filed 1/1/2024
Virginia	VA H.B. 1309	Would require the Virginia Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board, in consultation with the State Veterinarian, to	Introduced 1/10/2024

		develop guidelines for emergency treatment of fire, police, and search and rescue dogs injured in the line of duty and for the transportation of such dogs by an EMS vehicle to a veterinary care facility equipped to provide emergency treatment to such dogs.	
Virginia	VA H.B. 1387	Would permit law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency medical services personnel to provide emergency treatment to any animal in their care that is injured in the line of duty.	Filed 1/16/2024

Euthanasia

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Missouri	MO H.B. 2593/MO H.B. 2605	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Require sodium pentobarbital to be the sole method of inducing death in a dog or cat in an animal control agency, animal shelter, or pound; 2. Prohibit the use of non-anesthetic inhalants such as carbon monoxide or carbon dioxide gas, a decompression chamber, electrocution, gunshot, blunt force trauma, or injection of a neuromuscular blocking agent to induce death in a cat or dog; 3. Permit a substance clinically proven to be as humane as sodium pentobarbital and recognized by the AVMA to be used in lieu of sodium pentobarbital to induce death in a dog or cat if there is a shortage of sodium pentobarbital; and, 4. Permit only a licensed veterinarian or physician trained in the proper and humane methods to induce death in a dog or cat. 	Introduced 1/29/2024

Licensure

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Georgia	GA S.B. 410	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allow veterinarians and veterinary technicians licensed and in good standing in another state to qualify for a one-time, six-month temporary license, license by endorsement, or a combination thereof, for practice in government or nonprofit shelter medicine, nonprofit sterilization clinics, or nonprofit mobile sterilization programs registered with the State of Georgia; 2. Require applicants for a temporary license to have training, experience, and testing substantially similar or exceeding the requirements of Georgia; and, 3. Not allow out-of-state veterinarians and technicians to qualify for a temporary license outlined in this section if the entity they are working for in the state is not registered with the State. 	Introduced 1/26/2024
Nebraska	NE L.B. 1214	Would require certain professions, including veterinarians, to be subject to a criminal background check for applicants' initial license.	Introduced 1/12/2024

Livestock

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Tennessee	TN S.B. 1847/TN H.B.1938	Would extend the time in which authorized personnel may make a probable cause examination of livestock before a licensed veterinarian is permitted to inspect 24 hours to 48 hours.	Introduced 1/23/2024
Utah	UT S.B. 73	Would:	Introduced

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exempt local food (defined as an agricultural product or livestock that is produced, processed, and distributed for sale or consumption within the state) from regulation by the federal government; and, 2. Restrict the state regulation and rulemaking authority in relation to local food. 	1/8/2024
Utah	UT H.B. 291	<p>Would modify provisions related to the Department of Agriculture and Food, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Changing how the Department makes value determinations in relation to the destruction of infected livestock; 2. Clarifying a reporting requirement for a veterinarian who diagnoses a case of vesicular disease; and, 3. Repealing the “Dairy cattle subject to inspection for disease” provision. 	Introduced 1/15/2024
Vermont	VT 24P004	<p>Would outline the documentation and disease testing requirements to import cattle/bison, equine, swine, sheep, goats, poultry, ratites, psittacine birds, camelids, and cervids from the US 50 States and Canada into Vermont.</p>	Introduced 1/24/2024 Closed for Comment 3/15/2024

Mid-Level Position

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Colorado	CO #145 Establish Qualifications & Registration for Veterinary Professional Associate	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Define a “Veterinary Professional Associate” (VPA) as an individual with a master’s degree in veterinary clinical care, or equivalent; 2. Require a VPA to practice veterinary medicine under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian who is responsible for the VPA’s performance; 3. Require the veterinary medical board to establish licensure requirements for a VPA, including approving a nationally recognized veterinary professional association credentialing organization in the state; and, 4. Establish liability for a licensed, supervising veterinarian if a VPA is delegated responsibilities beyond his or her training and experience. 	Filed 1/26/2024

Non-Economic Damages | Malpractice

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Arizona	AZ S.B. 1199	<p>Would permit a person who prevails in a malpractice action against a veterinarian to receive the following damages for the death of the person’s domesticated dog or cat:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fair market value of the domesticated dog or cat; 2. Cost of all medical expenses resulting from the malpractice activity; and, 3. Up to \$10,000 for the person’s future loss of companionship. 	Introduced 1/22/2024
Arizona	AZ S.B. 1200	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Include making a false statement; altering a document, record, or report concerning the medical treatment of a dog; withholding known medical information about an animal relevant to the animal’s health from the owner or caretaker; and allowing a person who is not certified to perform a procedure without supervision unless the veterinarian confirms the person’s ability to the list of unprofessional or dishonorable conduct; 	Introduced 1/22/2024

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Increase the civil penalty to not more than \$1,900 for unprofessional or dishonorable conduct; and, 3. Require the board to increase the dollar amount of the maximum civil penalty for inflation based on the GDO Price Deflator. 	
Arizona	<u>AZ S.B. 1202</u>	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Permit a person to take private right of action against a veterinarian with a VCPR if the veterinarian does not disclose information about the animal's medical condition resulting in the delay of additional veterinary care or if the veterinarian permits an unlicensed person to perform any invasive procedure on an animal without the direct supervision and results in the death or serious injury of the animal; and, 2. Entitle a person who prevails in a private right of action to the fair market value of the animal or reasonable cost of replacement of the animal (in case of the death of the animal) and cost of medical expenses related to the action. 	Introduced 1/22/2024
New Hampshire	<u>NH H.B. 1684</u>	Would allow a person to recover damages for loss or impairment of the right of consortium (companionship) involving the death of that person's pet when the death is caused intentionally or recklessly.	Introduced 1/3/2024

Pet Insurance

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Florida	<u>FL S.B. 1338</u>	Would create a framework for pet insurance in the state.	Introduced 1/4/2024
Florida	<u>FL H.B. 1465</u>	Would create a framework for pet insurance in the state.	Filed 1/7/2024
Illinois	<u>IL H.B. 4532</u>	Would create a framework for pet insurance in the state.	Introduced 1/19/2024
Maryland	<u>MD H.B. 0647</u>	Would create a framework for pet insurance in the state,	Introduced 1/25/2024
New Jersey	<u>NJ S. 2034/NJ A. 1203</u>	Would create a framework for pet insurance in the state.	Filed 1/10/2024
New York	<u>NY S. 7845</u>	Would allow for the issuance of pet insurance that provides coverage for accidents and illnesses of pets.	Introduced 1/3/2023

Pharmaceuticals | Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Colorado	<u>CO S.B.24-047</u>	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exempt veterinarians from complying with specific aspects of the prescription drug monitoring program that are specific to prescriptions for human patients; 2. Add reporting requirements for gabapentin, in addition to prescriptions for controlled substances in this state, to the program; and, 3. Allow the medical director of a medical practice or hospital to appoint designees to query the program on behalf of a practitioner in the medical practice or hospital setting. 	Introduced 1/12/2024
Delaware	<u>DE S.B. 207</u>	Would remove the sunset provision related to xylazine.	Introduced 1/17/2024
Hawaii	<u>HI S.B. 2749/HI H.B. 2086</u>	Would Require the Administrator of the Narcotics Enforcement Administration to make an emergency scheduling by placing xylazine into schedule III on an emergency basis without an exemption for veterinary use.	Introduced 1/19/2024

Illinois	<u>IL H.B. 4352</u>	Would make xylazine a Schedule II controlled substance, without a veterinary use exemption.	Filed 1/4/2024
Illinois	<u>IL H.B. 4450</u>	Would make xylazine a Schedule III controlled substance without a veterinary use exemption.	Introduced 1/16/2024
Indiana	<u>IN H.B. 1203</u>	Would make xylazine a Schedule II controlled substance with a veterinary use exemption.	Introduced 1/9/2024 Amended to Include Exemption 1/25/2024
Maine	<u>ME L.D. 2139 (H.P. 1363)</u>	Would expand the required reporting on controlled substances under the Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program to include drugs, substances, and chemicals listed in the federally determined Schedule V.	Filed 1/2/2024
Maryland	<u>MD S.B. 0235/MD H.B. 0057</u>	Would: 1. Include veterinarians in the definition of "dispenser" for purposes of the PDMP when dispensing controlled substances for animals; and, 2. Provide that the PDMP is not required to disclose prescription drug monitoring data to veterinarians.	Filed 1/10/2024
Nebraska	<u>NE L.B. 892</u>	Would classify xylazine as a Schedule III drug without a veterinary use exemption.	Introduced 1/3/2024
Nebraska	<u>NE L.B. 1417</u>	Would amend the power and duties of certain committees, councils, and panels including terminating the Veterinary Prescription Monitoring Program Task Force on July 1, 2025.	Introduced 1/18/2024
New Jersey	<u>NJ S. 191/NJ A. 1526</u>	Would classify xylazine as a Schedule III controlled dangerous substance with a veterinary use exemption.	Filed 1/10/2024
New Jersey	<u>NJ S.R. 12/NJ A.R. 82</u>	A resolution that would urge the New Jersey Department of Health to increase public awareness of the effects of xylazine.	Filed 1/10/2024
New Jersey	<u>NJ A. 380</u>	Would: 1. Require prescriptions for animals to be issued in the name of the animal owner(s) engaged in the administration of the prescribed drug to the animal; 2. Prohibit persons unnamed on the prescription from possessing the prescribed drug; 3. Require veterinarians to review relevant prescription monitoring information obtained under the New Jersey Prescription Monitoring Program (PDMP) before prescribing a controlled substance; 4. Defines "certified veterinary aide" as a person who has passed the Veterinary Technician National Examination and is certified by the New Jersey Veterinary Technicians and Assistants Association and any person who has passed the Approved Veterinary Assistant Examination, developed by the Approved Veterinary Assistant Committee of the National Association of Veterinary Technicians of America, and who is certified to provide services in this State as an Approved Veterinary Assistant; and, 5. Require pharmacy permit holders to submit to the Division of Consumer Affairs, which houses the PDMP, information about controlled substances prescribed by a veterinarian for use by an animal including the surname, first name, and date of birth of the veterinary client or clients identified on the prescription blank, and the name and approximate age of the animal.	Filed 1/10/2024

New Jersey	<u>NJ A. 3342</u>	Would require health care practitioners prescribing opioid medications to limit the amount to a seven-day supply, except when, in the practitioner’s professional judgment, more is necessary to treat a patient’s acute medical condition, or is necessary to provide the patient with adequate management of chronic pain.	Filed 1/10/2024
South Dakota	<u>SD H.B. 1028</u>	Would classify xylazine as a Schedule III controlled substance, but provides an exemption for dispensing, prescribing, administering, manufacturing, or distributing xylazine when done for an animal and has been approved by the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services.	Prefiled 12/29/2023
Virginia	<u>VA S.B. 614/VA H.B. 1187</u>	Would criminalize the manufacturing, selling, giving, distributing, or possessing of xylazine with a veterinary medicine exemption.	Filed 1/10/2024 Substituted 2/1/2024

Research | Research Animals

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Colorado	<u>CO S.B.24-067</u>	Would require a facility that uses animals for health-related research to submit annual reports to the Department of Public Health and Environment regarding the use of animals in the facility and transfer dogs and cats owned by the facility to animal shelters and pet animal rescues before euthanizing the animal.	Introduced 1/22/2024
Indiana	<u>IN H.B. 1292</u>	Would: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Require the Indiana Board of Animal Health to establish a registry of research facilities that use live animals for research and testing and to track the number of live animals used for research or testing at each research facility; 2. Prohibit research facilities from using state funds to directly support medically unnecessary research on animal subjects that are classified as “pain and distress” under state law; 3. Prohibit research facilities from devocalizing an animal, procuring a devocalized animal, or utilizing a devocalized animal; 4. Require research facilities to offer dogs or cats no longer required for research purposes for adoption; 5. Allow research facilities to enter into collaborative agreements with animal shelters for retired animal subjects; and, 6. Create a reporting requirement for facilities that use dogs or cats for research. 	Filed 1/9/2024
Missouri	<u>MO S.B. 1319</u>	Would: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Require any public or private university or college that receives state funds and uses it for animal research to post a written report of such animal research on its website prior to December 31 of each year; and, 2. Include the injury to the sexual organs of a female dog or needlessly causing pain to a female dog during artificial insemination in the existing offense of animal abuse. 	Introduced 1/11/2024
Virginia	<u>VA S.B. 411</u>	Would: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Require animal testing facilities, contract testing facilities, or manufacturers that use animal testing methods to annually make publicly available certain information relating to animal testing, including the total number of animals used; and, 	Filed 1/10/2024

		2. Include records of federal animal welfare violations under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and restricts the cost of production to \$25 per one incident or per animal research facility.	
Virginia	<u>VA H.B. 580</u>	Would create a reporting requirement for any animal testing facility, contract testing facility, or manufacturer that uses an animal test method to make publicly available the total number of animals used for research, education, testing, or experimental, scientific, or biomedical purposes.	Prefiled 1/9/2024
Washington	<u>WA S.B. 6221/WA H.B. 2304</u>	Would require the Washington National Primate Research Center within the University of Washington to publish the following annually on its website: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The number of non-human primates, listed by species, and if they were used in research, breeding, born, purchased or sale, injured or died in a manner that resulted in an animal welfare situation by the USDA, killed or died as part of the research, test, study, or otherwise; 2. Link to a publicly accessible website that includes descriptions of research using non-human primates; 3. Total amount of money awarded from each source during the previous fiscal year; 4. Any inspection reports by the USDA related to animal welfare; and, 5. Documentation of the accreditation of the center. 	Introduced 1/11/2024

Scope of Practice

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Arizona	<u>AZ H.B. 2516</u>	Would: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prohibit a veterinarian from performing an onychectomy or tendonectomy to declaw a cat if for a therapeutic purpose; 2. Require a veterinarian who declaws a cat to maintain a record of the procedure for at least four years including the name and address of the cat's owner, physical description of the cat, date of the procedure, reason for the procedure, and any diagnostics, analysis, or tests results that supports the diagnostic opinion; 3. Define "therapeutic purpose" as a means to address an existing or recurring infection, disease, injury, or abnormal condition that jeopardizes the animal's health and is a medical necessity; and, 4. Exclude cosmetic or aesthetic purposes, or for the purpose of making a cat more convenient to keep or handle from "therapeutic purpose." 	Introduced 1/11/2024
Hawaii	<u>HI S.B. 2562</u>	Would prohibit animal owners and their employees from performing any surgical procedures (a cesarean section, ear cropping, tail docking, devocalization, declaw, or castration via banding) on the owner's dog or dogs without a license to practice veterinary medicine.	Introduced 1/19/2024
Hawaii	<u>HI H.B. 1527</u>	Would: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prohibit animal owners and their employees from performing any surgical procedures on the owner's animal or animals; 2. Prohibit the elastration, or castration via banding, of a pet animal; and, 3. Clarify that the offense of cruelty to animals in the first degree does not apply to accepted veterinary practices and cropping or docking as customarily practiced when the procedures are performed by a licensed veterinarian. 	Introduced 1/8/2024

Massachusetts	<u>MA S. 2552</u>	Would: 1. Prohibit performance of declaw procedures unless for a therapeutic purpose; 2. Require veterinarians who perform a declaw procedure to keep records for four years of the procedure and report the number of procedures annually to the Massachusetts Board of Veterinary Medicine; and, 3. Require the board of veterinary medicine to maintain records of performed declaw procedures for four years and report to the legislature.	Filed 1/16/2024
New Jersey	<u>NJ S. 1406/NJ A.1180</u>	Would: 1. Prohibit performance of an onychectomy 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; and, 2. Require a veterinarian who determines such procedure is necessary to prepare and file a written statement with the Department of Health including the purpose for performing the procedure and the name and address of the owner or keeper of the animal and provide a copy of that statement to the owner of the animal.	Filed 1/10/2024
New Jersey	<u>NJ A. 365</u>	Would: 1. Prohibit anyone from cropping or altering the tail or ears of a dog, except when the procedure is performed by a licensed veterinarian for medical reasons; and, 2. Require veterinarians who perform such a procedure to file a report with the New Jersey Department of Health.	Filed 1/10/2024
Rhode Island	<u>RI S.B. 2007/RI H.B. 7052</u>	Would prohibit the declawing of cats by any surgical procedure to amputate or modify a portion of a cat's paw in order to remove the cat's claws but would not apply to any procedure performed for a therapeutic purpose.	Introduced 1/5/2024
Utah	<u>UT H.B. 312</u>	Would permit a person to engage in the practice of animal massage therapy without an animal massage therapist license if division regulations are followed and the individual has completed at least 60 hours of training specified by the division.	Introduced 1/16/2024
Virginia	<u>VA H.B. 1354</u>	Would prohibit declawing procedures, except for therapeutic purposes.	Introduced 1/12/2024
Wisconsin	<u>WI S.B. 892/WI A.B. 957</u>	Would prohibit political subdivisions from: 1. Adopting regulations for animal facilities in areas that are zoned exclusively or primarily for agricultural use; 2. Establishing animal welfare standards that are more stringent than those contained in state law or from requiring or prohibiting animal medications or vaccinations that are not otherwise required or prohibited under state law; 3. Regulating the use to which an animal will be put, either on a farm or facility or after it leaves the farm or facility; and, 4. Regulating the species of animals that are allowed to be raised within an area that is zoned exclusively or primarily for agricultural use.	Introduced 1/16/2024

Small Business

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Florida	<u>FL S.B. 1478/FL H.B. 1033</u>	Would prohibit pet stores from selling cats or dogs.	Filed 12/27/2023
Indiana	<u>IN H.B. 1412</u>	Would:	Filed 1/11/2024

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Require retail pet stores, animal care facilities, and animal rescue operations to register with the Indiana Board of Animal Health; 2. Require pet store operators to get customers to commit to spaying or neutering a dog within a timeframe specified by a veterinarian; 3. Establish mandatory disclosures and warranties for a retail pet store selling dogs; and, 4. Establish a random inspection program for commercial dog breeders, commercial dog brokers, and retail pet stores. 	
Kentucky	<u>KY H.B. 313</u>	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prohibit retail pet shops from selling dogs, cats, or rabbits, but would allow them to collaborate with animal shelters to showcase those animals; 2. Require retail pet shops to maintain records for one year documenting the source of each dog, cat, or rabbit it showcases; and, 3. Prohibit the sale or transfer of ownership of a dog, cat, or rabbit in a publicly accessible space. 	Filed 1/19/2024
New Jersey	<u>NJ S. 297</u>	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prohibit any animal rescue organization or pet shop from obtaining a cat, dog, or rabbit from a breeder or broker in exchange for compensation; 2. Prohibit pet shops from selling cats, dogs, or rabbits; 3. Allow pet shops to display shelter animals for no compensation; 4. Require rescue organizations to have an animal examined by a veterinarian before making it available for adoption; 5. Require the veterinarian examining an adoptable animal to issue an animal health history and animal health certificate with outlined information; 6. Require that if an animal is not adopted within 14 days of an initial examination it must be re-examined by a veterinarian at least five days before being released to an adoptive owner; and, 7. Permit review, suspension, or revocation of kennel, pet shop, or shelter licenses for failure to comply with sanitary conduct and operation requirements. 	Filed 1/10/2024
New Jersey	<u>NJ A. 448</u>	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Require veterinary facilities that keep domestic companion animals overnight without on-premises supervision to have owners sign a consent form to keep the animal there without supervision; 2. Require the consent form to include information on the frequency of injuries, both fatal and non-fatal, to companion animals that occur as a result of unsupervised overnight care at the veterinary facility; and, 3. Not allow veterinarians who fail to obtain consent forms to charge for veterinary services rendered due to an injury that occurs as a result of unsupervised overnight care and are strictly liable for death or injury that occurs as a result of unsupervised overnight care. 	Filed 1/10/2024
New Mexico	<u>NM H.B. 262</u>	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prohibit a veterinary non-compete agreement from being enforced at the termination of employment; and, 2. Prohibit a veterinary non-compete agreement from another state from being enforced. 	Introduced 1/26/2024

Tennessee	<u>TN S.B. 2513/TN H.B. 2938</u>	Would require applicants for licensure as commercial breeders of cats or dogs to possess documentation signed by a veterinarian evidencing that the applicant completed a program of veterinary care.	Filed 1/31/2024
Vermont	<u>VT S. 301</u>	Would add large animal veterinarians operating in mobile units to the definition of “farm operation,” which would make them eligible for a state program farm ownership or operating loan.	Introduced 1/26/2024

Spaying | Neutering

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Maryland	<u>MD S.B. 0641/MD H.B. 0085</u>	Would allow the State-administered spay/neuter fund to cover routine vaccinations at the time of spay/neuter, mobile veterinary transportation, and transportation services to bring animals in from an unserved area	Filed 1/10/2024
New Jersey	<u>NJ S. 261</u>	Would: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create the Compassion for Community Cats 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; 2. Prohibit shelters, pounds, rescue organizations, etc. from releasing a cat for adoption before it has been spayed or neutered by a licensed veterinarian; and, 3. Allow animal control officers to take into custody and impound for euthanization any animal reported to or observed by an animal control officer to be ill or injured. 	Filed 1/10/2024
Rhode Island	<u>RI H.B. 7075</u>	Would clarify that trap, neuter, and release programs for cats should not be considered abandonment under the law so long as any medical or surgical procedure is performed by a veterinarian and the cat is returned to the area where it was captured.	Introduced 1/5/2024

State Programs | Board of Veterinary Medicine

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Arizona	<u>AZ S.B. 1201</u>	Would: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eliminate the Certified Veterinary Technician member from the Veterinary Medical Examining Board (VMEB); 2. Add a fourth public/non-veterinarian to represent the general public on the VMEB; 3. Require the VMEB to compile a list of specialists and CVTs to voluntarily advise and consult the board for alleged violations; 4. Require the VMEB to notify a veterinarian that they may be represented by an attorney during an investigative hearing or meeting; and, 5. Require the VMEB to release all medical records of an animal to the owner when received from the veterinarian who is the subject of the complaint. 	Introduced 1/22/2024
Indiana	<u>IN S.B. 0104</u>	Would: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Require the Indiana State Police to disclose to the Indiana Board of Veterinary Medicine the criminal history or activity of veterinary license or certificate holders or applicants; 2. Require veterinarians and veterinary technicians to disclose certain information when renewing a license or registration certificate electronically and require the board to compile that information into an annual report; 	Introduced 1/8/2024

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Provide that a licensed veterinarian is not required to obtain an additional controlled substance registration when practicing veterinary medicine at a site, so long as the site is not a principal place of business or professional practice; and, 4. Not allow a veterinarian or a registered veterinary technician to renew an expired license or registration certificate after three years following the date of the expiration (previously five years). 	
Maryland	<u>MD H.B. 0171</u>	Would add a veterinary pharmacist to the membership of the Maryland Board of Pharmacy.	Filed 1/10/2024
New Jersey	<u>NJ S. 67</u>	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create the Dog Trainer Board of Examiners, two members of which would be veterinarians; 2. Require the Board to prescribe rules for the examination of applicants for licensure and issue a license to each qualified and successful applicant, attesting to the applicant's professional qualification to practice as a dog trainer; 3. Require the Board to take disciplinary action against any dog trainer who violates this act or any regulation promulgated under this act; 4. Create license protection for dog trainers and outline basic qualifications for licensure; and, 5. Direct the Board to determine appropriate continuing education requirements. 	Filed 1/10/2024
New Jersey	<u>NJ S. 264/NJ A. 1456</u>	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Direct the New Jersey Board of Veterinary Medicine to issue and renew licenses to pet groomers and schools in keeping with state law and maintain a record of every pet groomer licensed in the state; and, 2. Prohibit anyone from practicing pet grooming in the state without a license and outlines requirements and processes for licensure. 	Filed 1/10/2024
New Jersey	<u>NJ A. 446</u>	Would require animal and veterinary facilities to register with the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners and to be inspected by the Board annually.	Filed 1/10/2024
New Jersey	<u>NJ A. 1212</u>	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a Dog Trainer Licensure Board, one member of which must be a veterinarian who is either a board-certified veterinary behaviorist certified by a program recognized by the New Jersey State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners and the American Veterinary Medical Association or has professional certification in dog training; 2. Direct the Board to promulgate regulations, including for a temporary license for out-of-state individuals; and, 3. Outlines requirements for licensure eligibility. 	Filed 1/10/2024
Virginia	<u>VA S.J. 15/VA H.J. 43</u>	Would direct the Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine, in consultation with the State Veterinarian, to complete a two-year study of the shortage of large animal veterinarians.	Introduced 1/5/2024
Virginia	<u>VA S.B. 663/VA H.B. 1306</u>	Would permit the Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine to regulate, inspect, and register all satellite offices where veterinary medicine is practiced and direct the Board to promulgate rules to implement this section within 280 days of enactment.	Introduced 1/10/2024
Virginia	<u>VA H.B. 848</u>	Would allow the Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine to permit limited practice of veterinary medicine by a veterinary medicine licensure applicant, provided they are enrolled in a traineeship	Prefiled 1/9/2024

		program and under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian.	
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Taxes: Credits | Exemptions | Sale & Use

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Kentucky	KY H.B.42	Would exempt veterinarian services and charges for veterans' service animals from the state's sales and use tax.	Filed 1/2/2024
New Jersey	NJ S. 615/NJ A. 283	Would allow taxpayers to deduct up to \$2,500 from gross income of non-reimbursed veterinarian expenses incurred by the taxpayer for the examination and care of the taxpayer's pet during the taxable year.	Filed 1/10/2024
New Jersey	NJ A. 733	Would exempt sales of pet food and qualified medication purchased for pets from sales and use tax.	Filed 1/10/2024
New Jersey	NJ A. 2212	Would exempt sales of qualified pet medication purchased from sales and use tax.	Filed 1/10/2024
New Jersey	NJ A. 3234	Would exempt sales of pet food purchased for pets from the sales and use tax.	Filed 1/10/2024
Virginia	VA H.B. 889	Would designate companion animal care, including grooming, boarding, walking, training, and feeding a taxable service and specifically excludes veterinary care.	Prefiled 1/9/2024
West Virginia	WV H.B. 4944	Would create a tax credit for state residents who have paid to have a dog or cat spayed/neutered and would require the resident to present a receipt for the service from a licensed veterinarian.	Filed 1/19/2024

Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR) | Telemedicine

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Colorado	CO H.B. 24-1048	Would: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clarify that an examination to establish a VCPR must be an in-person, physical examination; 2. Extend a VCPR to other licensed veterinarians who share the same physical premises as the veterinarian who established the VCPR if there is access to and they have reviewed the patient's medical records, including via telemedicine; 3. Permit a licensed veterinarian who has established a VCPR to use telehealth to provide veterinary services to clients and patients in Colorado with the consent of the client; 4. Permit licensed veterinarians to refer a patient to a veterinary specialist who may provide veterinary services via telemedicine under the referring veterinarian's VCPR; 5. Authorize the Board of Veterinary Medicine to establish rules for the use of telehealth to provide veterinary services; 6. Clarify that only a licensed veterinarian with an established VCPR may prescribe medication using telemedicine; and, 7. Establish record-keeping, confidentiality, and privacy requirements related to the use of telehealth. 	Introduced 1/10/2024
Colorado	CO #144 Veterinary Telehealth	Would: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Permit a VCPR to be established by an in-person examination, medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animal is kept, or by an electronic examination using an audio-video based communication medium; 2. Define "veterinary telehealth" as "the practice of veterinary medicine through telecommunication systems;" 3. Grant the veterinary medical board jurisdiction over a veterinarian practicing veterinary telehealth on a patient in 	Filed 1/26/2024

		<p>Colorado regardless of where the veterinarian is located if they hold an active Colorado license;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Require a veterinarian to inform and gain the consent of an owner or caretaker about the use of telehealth; 5. Require a veterinarian to provide the owner or caretaker with their license number and contact information; 6. Require a veterinarian to be able to refer the owner or other caretaker to a veterinarian who may be able to see the patient in person upon request; and, 7. Prohibit a veterinarian who is practicing veterinary telehealth from ordering, prescribing, or making available a controlled substance (or other drugs in accordance with federal law) without a previously performed in-person examination. 	
Florida	<u>FL S.B. 1162</u>	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Require a veterinarian practicing telehealth to have an existing VCPR and provide services within their scope of practice and in keeping with the prevailing professional standard; 2. Allow a veterinarian to use telehealth to provide an evaluation, and if evaluation is sufficient, to treat the patient without researching the patient's medical history or conducting a physical examination; 3. Allow veterinarians to prescribe via telehealth services, in keeping with state and federal laws, except for substances listed in the Schedule II controlled substance list; 4. Require a veterinarian to be personally acquainted with the caring and keeping of an animal or group of animals on a food-producing animal operation on land classified as agricultural and to have recently seen the animal or group of animals or to have made medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animal or group of animals is kept in order for the veterinarian to provide telemedicine services to that operation; 5. Allow, under the indirect supervision of a veterinarian, an <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. employee, agent, or contractor of a county or municipal animal control authority; b. sheriff; or c. veterinary technician who is an employee, agent, or contractor of a permitted, private, nonprofit animal shelter that employs a full-time staff veterinarian to vaccinate against rabies dogs, cats, and ferrets in the custody of an animal control authority or a sheriff; 6. Define "indirect supervision" as being available for consultation through telecommunications; and, 7. Require the supervising veterinarian to assume liability for anyone administering rabies vaccines at their direction or under their supervision. 	Filed 1/2/2024
New Jersey	<u>NJ A. 1658</u>	<p>Would clarify that veterinarians are not within the ambit of telemedicine and telehealth law.</p>	Filed 1/10/2024
Utah	<u>UT H.B. 145</u>	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Repeal the prohibition on establishing a VCPR solely through electronic or telephonic means; 2. Authorize veterinary telehealth services if the service or treatment through telehealth services meets the standards of the veterinary profession; and, 3. Prohibit a licensed veterinarian from prescribing a controlled substance to an animal unless it is an emergency situation, 	Introduced 1/4/2024

		and the prescribed dosage is limited to an amount necessary to facilitate the animal obtaining appropriate care.	
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Veterinary Technicians | Veterinary Assistants

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
California	CA 2023-1127-01	<p>Would amend regulations on RVT's "Practical Experience and Education as Equivalent Curriculum" by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Requiring a minimum (instead of a total) of 20-semester units; and, 2. Eliminating the requirement for all education requirements to be completed by the applicant within five years prior to the date of the examination for registration. 	Proposed 1/9/2024
Colorado	CO H.B. 24-1047	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Require the Board of Veterinary Medicine to promulgate rules to establish tasks and recommended level of supervision that a licensed veterinarian may delegate to a veterinary technician and veterinary technician specialists within an established VCPR; 2. Require a veterinarian to provide appropriate levels of supervision of the veterinary technician or veterinary technician specialist in accordance with Board rules; 3. Permit, if an applicable Board rule is not available and in compliance with state and federal laws, a veterinarian to delegate a task based on the assessment of the veterinary medical care, experience, education, and training of the person providing the care; and, 4. Authorize a veterinary technician to receive a veterinary technician specialist designation as part of a veterinary technician's registration, grant title protection, and prohibit the unauthorized practice as a veterinary technician specialist by a person without the designation. 	Introduced 1/10/2024
New Jersey	NJ A. 2393	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create licensure for veterinary technicians; 2. Exempt from the "practice of veterinary medicine" actions of a veterinary technician or properly trained veterinary assistant under the responsible and direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian as long as the veterinary technician and assistant do not represent themselves as a veterinarian or use any title or degree relating to the practice of veterinary medicine, surgery or dentistry, and does not diagnose, prescribe, or perform surgery; and, 3. Allow a veterinary technician, under the responsible supervision of a veterinarian, to perform any task for which they have been trained as outlined in the American Veterinary Medical Association's essential task list for veterinary technician teaching programs. 	Filed 1/10/2024

Wildlife | Zoo Animals

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
New Jersey	NJ A. 1142	<p>Would require covered wildlife (bobcats, coyotes, crows, foxes, minks, opossums, rabbits, raccoons, skunks, squirrels, weasels, and woodchucks) injured as a result of a competitive event to be transported to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator or licensed veterinarian for proper treatment or to be euthanized if necessary.</p>	Filed 1/10/2024

South Carolina	<u>SC H.B. 4874</u>	Would amend the wildlife imported for exhibition statute to only allow zoos accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and transient circuses based outside the state to import wildlife without being required to obtain a permit.	Introduced 1/17/2024
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