Proposed Bylaws Amendment #2-2018
Regular Annual Session

Submitted by
American Association of Bovine Practitioners
American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners

CONSTITUENT ALLIED VETERINARY ORGANIZATIONS

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

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

Section 4. Constituent Allied Veterinary Organizations.

a. Requirements. Constituent Allied Veterinary Organizations are organizations of veterinarians with specific vocational interests allied to the interests of the Association that meet the following requirements:
   1. Have a national scope of operation;
   2. Represent a broad field of veterinary activity;
   3. Have a constitution and/or bylaws that does not conflict with the Association’s Bylaws;
   4. Be oriented to some phase of professional veterinary activity, but is not a local or regional organization;
   5. Not be a specialty organization recognized by the Association;
   6. An organization seeking consideration as a Constituent Allied Veterinary Organization must include among its voting membership at least one percent (1%) of all voting members of the Association, and at least ninety percent (90%) of that organization’s voting membership must be voting members of the Association. The number of AVMA voting members for a calendar year shall be calculated as of the date of March 31 of that year.

b. Application for Recognition as a Constituent Allied Veterinary Organization. The Board of Directors, or its designee(s), shall adopt an application form and procedures to facilitate the consideration of applicants seeking representation in the House of Delegates as Constituent Allied Veterinary Organizations. All applicants must complete the application form and submit the application, along with the designated fee, if any, to the administrative office of the Association. The Board of Directors, or its designee(s), shall (i) review the application of all applicants and determine, on the basis of the criteria set forth in these Bylaws and such other guidelines as the House of Delegates may prescribe, if individual applicants meet the qualifications necessary for recognition as a Constituent Allied Veterinary Organization and (ii) make a recommendation to the House of Delegates regarding the admission of such applicants to the House of Delegates.

c. Obligation to Maintain Status. Constituent Veterinary Allied Organizations must continue to meet the requirements set forth in Article VII, Section 4(a), with the exception of Section 4(a)(6) as noted below, to maintain their status as a Constituent Allied Veterinary Organization and retain their right to representation in the House of Delegates. If the organization is unable to maintain such requirements as of July 1 of each year, the Executive Vice President, or his or her designee, shall notify the organization that it has one year from the end of the summersession
of the House of Delegates to meet the eligibility requirements to maintain status describe in this section. If the organization does not demonstrate compliance to maintain status by the beginning of the following summer session, it will lose its representation in the House of Delegates. With respect to the requirement regarding voting members of the AVMA set forth in Article VII, Section 4(a)(6), the following requirements shall apply for purposes of maintaining status in the House of Delegates:

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

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

Statement about the Bylaws Amendment

The proposed Bylaws amendment is an effort to recognize the necessary and historical representation in the House of Delegates by Constituent Veterinary Allied Organizations. The proposed Bylaws amendment also is an attempt to apply the same membership requirements for continual representation in the House of Delegates to those organizations who joined prior to July 8, 1995 as are applied to states. Such membership requirements would be set forth in the manual of the House of Delegates which is amended by majority vote of the House of Delegates upon recommendation from the House Advisory Committee.

The current requirements for the organizations that joined prior to July 8, 1995 are defined in the Bylaws as a minimum of 300 members with 85% being members of the AVMA (Association) or 500 members. Currently there are eight (8) states that have less than 300 members representing 15% of the voting strength of the House of Delegates and eleven (11) states that have less than 500 members representing 21% of the voting strength of the House of Delegates. There are sixteen (16) Constituent Veterinary Allied Organizations that joined the House of Delegates prior to July 8, 1995 representing 4% of the voting strength of the House of Delegates. Two (2) organizations have joined the House of Delegates after July 8, 1995 and the requirements outlined in C (2) above would apply to those organizations and any that requested representation in the future.

Constituent Veterinary Allied Organizations represent a significant voice and resource for the House of Delegates. These organizations are seeking to maintain a voice in the House of Delegates, not voting strength. As consolidation in the industry occurs and the possibility of these organizations having a decreasing number of members, it is important to continue to allow them to have this voice in the House of Delegates by holding them to the same standards that are applied to states while limiting their voting strength. The proposed Bylaws amendment would recognize that the organizations that have had
continual representation since July 8, 1995 should remain in the House of Delegates but maintain the requirements for new organizations to join the House of Delegates to maintain the standards that are represented in the Bylaws. A “clean” unedited version of the proposed Bylaws amendment is attached for clarity as well as the voting strength and membership count document for each organization in the House of Delegates for reference.

List of Constituent Veterinary Allied Organizations that joined prior to July 8, 1995:
American Animal Hospital Association
American Association of Avian Pathologists
American Association of Bovine Practitioners
American Association of Equine Practitioners
American Association of Feline Practitioners
American Association of Food Safety Veterinarians
American Association of Industry Veterinarians
American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners
American Association of Swine Veterinarians
American Association of Veterinary Clinicians
American Society of Laboratory Animal Practitioners
Association of Avian Veterinarians
National Association of Federal Veterinarians
Society of Theriogenology
Student AVMA
Uniformed Services

List of Constituent Veterinary Allied Organizations that joined after July 8, 1995:
American Academy of Veterinary Acupuncture
American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association

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