

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 25, 2025

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 30, 2025

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 23, 2025

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2025–26 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1502

Introduced by Assembly Member Berman

February 24, 2025

An act to amend Sections 4800, 4804.5, 4809.7, 4809.8, 4826.5, 4826.6, 4827, 4839, 4841.1, 4841.4, 4841.5, 4842, 4846, 4848.1, 4855, 4856, 4875, 4875.1, 4875.2, 4883, 4885, 4886, 4887, 4901.2, and 4905 of, to add Sections 4855.1, 4875.7, and 4882 to, to add Article 3.1 (commencing with Section 4858) to Chapter 11 of Division 2 of, to repeal Sections 4837, 4838, 4842.1, 4843, 4845.5, 4846.5, 4876, and 4881 of, and to repeal and add Sections 4836.2 and 4902 of, the Business and Professions Code, relating to veterinary medicine.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1502, as amended, Berman. Veterinary medicine: California Veterinary Medical Board.

(1) Existing law, the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act, establishes the California Veterinary Medical Board, until January 1, 2026, within the Department of Consumer Affairs and sets forth its powers and duties relating to the licensure and regulation of veterinarians, veterinarian technicians, and the practice of veterinary medicine. Existing law, until January 1, 2026, authorizes the board to appoint a person exempt from civil service as an executive officer to exercise the powers and perform the duties delegated by the board and vested in them. Existing law establishes the membership of the board, including 4 licensed

veterinarians, 1 registered veterinary technician, and 3 public members. Existing law makes a violation of the act a crime.

This bill would extend the existence of the board to until January 1, 2030, add an additional registered veterinary technician member to the board, and make conforming changes. The bill would require at least one of the licensed veterinarian members to specialize in equine or livestock care, or both.

(2) Existing law requires an individual to meet certain requirements for registration as a veterinary technician, as defined, including furnishing satisfactory evidence of educational or experiential qualifications, as specified.

This bill would expand the qualifications that the applicant for registration as a veterinary technician may furnish as proof of compliance with the educational or experiential qualifications requirement to include, among other things, graduation from a veterinary college recognized by the board. The bill would expand the requirements of registration as a veterinary technician to include, among other things, submission of a full set of fingerprints for the purpose of conducting a criminal history record check and a state and federal criminal offender record information search, as specified.

(3) Existing law requires an individual to meet certain requirements for issuance of a veterinary assistant controlled substance permit, including submitting to the Department of Justice fingerprint images and related information, as specified.

This bill would require an applicant for a veterinary assistant controlled substance permit to disclose each state, Canadian province, or United States territory in which the applicant currently holds or has ever held a license, registration, certificate, or permit to practice veterinary medicine.

(4) Existing law requires a veterinarian to keep a written record of all animals receiving veterinary services, and to provide a summary of that record to the owner of animals receiving veterinary services, when requested. Existing law requires the board to establish the minimum amount of information to be included in written records and summaries and the minimum duration of time that a licensed premises must retain the written record or a copy of the written record.

This bill would instead require a veterinarian to provide a client or client's authorized agent with a copy of that record, upon their request, as specified. The bill would also require the veterinarian, if requested by the client or client's authorized agent, as specified, because the

animal is in critical condition or direct transfer to another veterinary premises for medical care is recommended, to provide a copy or summary of the written record to the client or the client's authorized agent. If a written record is not available upon release of the animal patient, the bill would require the veterinarian to communicate information to facilitate continuity of care of the animal patient either to the receiving veterinarian or veterinary premises or, if the receiving veterinary premises is unknown, to the client or the client's authorized agent.

This bill would also require a licensee manager to provide a client or client's authorized agent, upon their request, with a record of client payments made to the veterinary premises related to services and treatment provided, as specified. The bill would require a record of client payments made to the veterinary premises related to services and treatments provided to be maintained for a minimum of 3 years after the animal's last visits. *The bill would also require a licensee manager to make any records related to the services a veterinarian has provided on behalf of the registered veterinary premises available for inspection by that veterinarian.*

By expanding the requirements of the act, the violation of which is a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

(5) Existing law requires the board to establish a regular inspection program that will provide for random, unannounced inspections of veterinary premises and requires the board to inspect at least 20% of veterinary premises annually.

The bill would, instead, provide that the random inspections described above shall be announced or unannounced. The bill would remove the requirement for the board to inspect 20% of veterinary premises annually and would, instead, require the board to make every reasonable effort to ensure veterinary premises are inspected in a timely manner.

~~(5)~~

(6) Existing law authorizes the board to revoke or suspend for a certain time the license or registration of a veterinarian or veterinarian technician to practice veterinary medicine, as specified, and, in addition to its authority to suspend or revoke a license or registration, to assess a fine not in excess of \$5,000 against a licensee or registrant, as specified. Existing law authorizes the board to place a licensee or registrant on probation, as specified, and to issue a probationary veterinary assistant controlled substance permit, as specified. Existing law requires the board to prioritize its investigative and prosecutorial

resources to ensure that veterinarians and registered veterinary technicians representing the greatest threat of harm are identified and disciplined expeditiously, as specified.

Existing law authorizes the executive officer to issue a citation to a veterinarian or registered veterinary technician for specified violations. Existing law authorizes the board to deny, revoke, or suspend a license or registration for specified violations, including a violation of any federal statute, rule, or regulation or any of the statutes, rules, or regulations of this state regulating dangerous drugs or controlled substances. Existing law authorizes the board, upon a plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere made to a charge of a felony or of any offense related to the practice of veterinary medicine, to order the suspension or revocation of the license or registration of the convicted individual or to assess a fine, as specified.

This bill would recast and expand the above-described authorizations and requirements for the board and authorizations for the executive officer related to the disciplinary proceedings of a licensee or registrant to also apply to a veterinary assistant controlled substance permitholder. The bill would authorize the board to place on probation a license, registration, or permit for certain violations, including the above-described violations relating to dangerous drugs or controlled substances, and would specify that dangerous drugs includes antimicrobial drugs in animal feed. The bill would authorize the executive officer to issue a citation to a person or entity for practicing or offering to practice veterinary medicine without a license, registration, or permit, as specified. The bill would authorize a veterinary assistant controlled substance permitholder to, under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian, compound drugs for animal use, as specified. The bill would authorize a licensee, registrant, or permitholder to enter into a settlement to resolve an administrative action, as specified.

Existing law authorizes the board, on reinstatement of a license or registration, to impose certain terms and conditions to be followed by the licensee or registrant, including requiring the licensee or registrant to obtain additional professional training and to pass an examination upon completion of the training. Existing law requires the holder of a revoked license or registration that is reinstated after its expiration to pay a reinstatement fee, as specified. Existing law provides that a person who fails to renew their license within five years of its expiration may not renew it, and it shall not be restored, reissued, or reinstated, but such a person may apply for and obtain a new license, as specified.

This bill would also authorize the board to impose the above-referenced terms and conditions on the reinstatement of a veterinary assistant controlled substance permit, and would impose the above-described fee requirement on the reinstatement of that permit. The bill would deem a reinstatement petition abandoned if enforcement fees and costs, as applicable, are not paid by a petitioner within one year of the effective date of a decision reinstating the license, registration, or permit. The bill would deem a license, registration, or permit canceled if it is not renewed within five years after its expiration, but would allow the licensee, registrant, or permitholder to apply for and obtain a new license, registration, or permit, as specified.

Existing law requires the executive officer in all cases of suspension, revocation, or restriction of licenses or assessment of fines to enter on the register the fact of suspension, revocation, restriction, or fine, as the case may be. Existing law deems a record of any suspension, revocation, restriction, or fine as made by the county clerk to be prima facie evidence of the fact thereof, and of the regularity of all the proceedings of the board in the matter of the suspension, revocation, restriction, or fine. Existing law requires the board to, upon denial of an application for registration, provide certain information related to the denial, as specified.

This bill would delete those provisions.

Existing law authorizes a person whose license or registration has been revoked or who has been placed on probation to petition the board for reinstatement or modification of penalties, as specified.

This bill would require those petitions to be accompanied by a full set of fingerprints for purposes of conducting a criminal history record check.

~~(6)~~

(7) Existing law requires the board to collect specified fees related to, among other things, licensure, registration, issuance of permit, course licensure, and veterinary premises registration and credit those fees to the California Veterinary Medical Board Contingent Fund, an account in the Professions and Vocations Fund subject to appropriation by the Legislature. Existing law requires the fee for filing an application for approval of a school or institution offering a curriculum for training registered veterinary technicians to be set by the board at an amount not to exceed \$300 and requires the school or institution to pay for the reasonable regulatory costs incident to an onsite inspection conducted by the board, as specified. Existing law requires the fees assessed by

the board to be reduced, upon specified conditions, but not reduced so as to cause the California Veterinary Medical Board Contingent Fund to have a reserve of less than 3 months of annual authorized board expenditures.

This bill would recast those provisions and would revise the cost of those fees to not exceed specified amounts. The bill would establish new categories for veterinary premises registration fees based on the number of full-time equivalent veterinarians providing veterinary services at the premises and would define terms for that purpose. The bill would delete, among other things, the provisions related to application for approval of a school or institution offering a curriculum for training registered veterinary technicians and reduction of fees.

(7)

(8) Existing law requires the board to issue renewal licenses only to applicants who have completed a minimum of 36 hours of continuing education in the preceding 2 years, except as specified, and provides sources to earn continuing education credit, including courses offered by nonprofit annual conferences established in conjunction with state veterinary medical associations. Existing law authorizes the board to require, if the board determines that the public health and safety would be served by requiring all registrants to continue their education after receiving registration, that they submit assurances satisfactory to the board that they will, during the succeeding renewal period, inform themselves of the developments in the field of animal health technology since the issuance of their certificate of registration, as specified.

This bill would recast those provisions to instead require all holders of veterinarian licenses and veterinary technician registrations to, except for during the first renewal period, obtain continuing education relevant to developments in the practice of veterinary medicine, ~~as specified.~~ *specified, and would make conforming changes.* The bill would require a person applying for renewal to certify, under penalty of perjury, that they are in compliance with the applicable continuing education requirements. By expanding the scope of a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

This bill would authorize the board to audit the records of all applicants to verify the completion of the continuing education requirement. The bill would revise the courses that previously fulfilled that continuing education requirement by, among other things, removing courses offered by the nonprofit annual conferences described above. The bill would, among other things, authorize a veterinarian or a

veterinarian technician who teaches a course that meets the continuing education requirement to receive continuing education credit, as specified. The bill would authorize continuing education requirement credit to be received for, among other things, passing the California Veterinary Law Examination. The bill would delete the above provision related to registrant continuing education.

This bill would require the board to issue renewed veterinary technician registrations to only those applicants who have completed a minimum of 20 hours of continuing education in the preceding two years. The bill would specify sources to earn continuing education credit, including taking self-study courses. The bill would require providers offering continuing education courses for veterinarians or veterinarian technicians to comply with specified requirements and would authorize the board, for good cause, to adopt an order specifying, on a prospective basis, that a continuing education source is no longer an acceptable source.

(8)

(9) Existing law requires the board to approve all schools or institutions offering a curriculum for training registered veterinary technicians and to furnish application forms to schools requesting approval.

This bill would delete those approval and application form requirements.

(9)

(10) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 4800 of the Business and Professions
2 Code is amended to read:
3 4800. (a) There is in the Department of Consumer Affairs a
4 California Veterinary Medical Board in which the administration
5 of this chapter is vested. The board shall consist of the following
6 nine members:

1 (1) Four licensed veterinarians, at least one of whom shall
2 specialize in equine or livestock care, or both.

3 (2) Two registered veterinary technicians.

4 (3) Three public members.

5 (b) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2030,
6 and as of that date is repealed.

7 (c) Notwithstanding any other law, the repeal of this section
8 renders the board subject to review by the appropriate policy
9 committees of the Legislature. However, the review of the board
10 shall be limited to those issues identified by the appropriate policy
11 committees of the Legislature and shall involve the preparation or
12 submission of a sunset review document or evaluative
13 questionnaire.

14 SEC. 2. Section 4804.5 of the Business and Professions Code
15 is amended to read:

16 4804.5. (a) The board may appoint a person exempt from civil
17 service who shall be designated as an executive officer and who
18 shall exercise the powers and perform the duties delegated by the
19 board and vested in them by this chapter.

20 (b) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2030,
21 and as of that date is repealed.

22 SEC. 3. Section 4809.7 of the Business and Professions Code
23 is amended to read:

24 4809.7. The board shall establish a regular inspection program
25 that will provide for ~~random~~, *random announced or unannounced*
26 ~~inspections and the board shall inspect at least 20 percent of~~
27 ~~veterinary premises on an annual basis.~~ *of veterinary premises.*
28 *The board shall make every reasonable effort to ensure veterinary*
29 *premises are inspected in a timely manner.*

30 ~~SEC. 3.~~

31 SEC. 4. Section 4809.8 of the Business and Professions Code
32 is amended to read:

33 4809.8. (a) The board shall establish an advisory committee
34 to assist, advise, and make recommendations for the
35 implementation of rules and regulations necessary to ensure proper
36 administration and enforcement of this chapter and to assist the
37 board in its examination, licensure, and registration programs. The
38 committee shall serve only in an advisory capacity to the board
39 and the objectives, duties, and actions of the committee shall not
40 be a substitute for or conflict with any of the powers, duties, and

responsibilities of the board. The committee shall be known as the Veterinary Medicine Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee. The multidisciplinary committee shall consist of nine members. The following members of the multidisciplinary committee shall be appointed by the board from lists of nominees solicited by the board: four licensed veterinarians, two registered veterinary technicians, and one public member. The committee shall also include one veterinarian member of the board and one registered veterinary technician member of the board, both to be appointed by the board president. Members of the multidisciplinary committee shall represent a sufficient cross section of the interests in veterinary medicine in order to address the issues before it, as determined by the board, including veterinarians, registered veterinary technicians, and members of the public.

(b) Multidisciplinary committee members appointed by the board shall serve for a term of three years and appointments shall be staggered accordingly. A member may be reappointed, but no person shall serve as a member of the committee for more than two consecutive terms. Vacancies occurring shall be filled by appointment for the unexpired term, within 90 days after they occur. Board members of the multidisciplinary committee shall serve concurrently with their terms of office on the board.

(c) The multidisciplinary committee shall be subject to the requirements of Article 9 (commencing with Section 11120) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

(d) Multidisciplinary committee members shall receive a per diem as provided in Section 103 and shall be compensated for their actual travel expenses in accordance with the rules and regulations adopted by the Department of Human Resources.

(e) The board may remove a member of the multidisciplinary committee appointed by the board for continued neglect of a duty required by this chapter, for incompetency, or for unprofessional conduct.

(f) It is the intent of the Legislature that the multidisciplinary committee, in implementing this section, give appropriate consideration to issues pertaining to the practice of registered veterinarian technicians.

1 ~~SEC. 4.~~

2 *SEC. 5.* Section 4826.5 of the Business and Professions Code
3 is amended to read:

4 4826.5. Notwithstanding any other law, a licensed veterinarian,
5 registered veterinary technician, or veterinary assistant controlled
6 substance permitholder under the supervision of a licensed
7 veterinarian may compound drugs for animal use pursuant to
8 Section 530 of Title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations and in
9 accordance with regulations promulgated by the board. The
10 regulations promulgated by the board shall, at a minimum, address
11 the storage of drugs, the level and type of supervision required for
12 compounding drugs by a registered veterinary technician or a
13 veterinary assistant controlled substance permitholder, and the
14 equipment necessary for the safe compounding of drugs. Any
15 violation of the regulations adopted by the board pursuant to this
16 section shall constitute grounds for an enforcement or disciplinary
17 action.

18 ~~SEC. 5.~~

19 *SEC. 6.* Section 4826.6 of the Business and Professions Code
20 is amended to read:

21 4826.6. (a) A veterinarian shall not prescribe, dispense, or
22 administer a drug, medicine, application, or treatment of whatever
23 nature for the prevention, cure, or relief of a wound, fracture, bodily
24 injury, or disease of animals unless a veterinarian-client-patient
25 relationship exists or as otherwise permitted by law, except when
26 the animal patient is a wild animal or the owner of the animal
27 patient is unknown. A veterinarian-client-patient relationship exists
28 if all of the following conditions are met:

29 (1) The client has authorized the veterinarian to assume
30 responsibility for medical judgments regarding the health of the
31 animal patient.

32 (2) The veterinarian possesses sufficient knowledge of the
33 animal patient to initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis
34 of the animal patient's medical condition.

35 (3) The veterinarian has assumed responsibility for making
36 medical judgments regarding the health of the animal patient and
37 has communicated with the client a medical, treatment, diagnostic,
38 or therapeutic plan appropriate to the circumstances.

39 (b) A veterinarian possesses sufficient knowledge of the animal
40 patient for purposes of paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) if the

1 veterinarian has recently seen, or is personally acquainted with,
2 the care of the animal patient by doing any of the following:

3 (1) Examining the animal patient in person.

4 (2) Examining the animal patient by use of synchronous
5 audio-video communication.

6 (3) Making medically appropriate and timely visits to the
7 premises on which the animal patient is kept.

8 (c) For purposes of paragraphs (1) and (3) of subdivision (a),
9 the client may authorize an agent to act on the client's behalf.

10 (d) Synchronous audio-video communication is not required
11 for the delivery of veterinary medicine via telehealth after a
12 veterinarian-client-patient relationship has been established unless
13 the veterinarian determines that it is necessary in order to provide
14 care consistent with prevailing veterinary medical practice.

15 (e) A veterinarian-client-patient relationship shall not be
16 established solely by audio-only communication or by means of
17 a questionnaire.

18 (f) Only a person who holds a current license to practice
19 veterinary medicine in this state is authorized to practice veterinary
20 medicine via telehealth on an animal patient located in this state.

21 (g) Before delivering veterinary medicine via telehealth, the
22 veterinarian shall inform the client about the use and potential
23 limitations of telehealth and obtain consent from the client to use
24 telehealth, including acknowledgment of all of the following:

25 (1) The same standards of care apply to veterinary medicine
26 services via telehealth and in-person veterinary medical services.

27 (2) The client has the option to choose an in-person visit from
28 a veterinarian at any time.

29 (3) The client has been advised how to receive ~~follow-up~~
30 *followup* care or assistance in the event of an adverse reaction to
31 the treatment or in the event of an inability to communicate
32 resulting from technological or equipment failure.

33 (h) A veterinarian who practices veterinary medicine via
34 telehealth shall do all of the following:

35 (1) Ensure that the technology, method, and equipment used to
36 provide veterinary medicine services via telehealth comply with
37 all current privacy protection laws.

38 (2) Have historical knowledge of the animal patient by obtaining
39 and reviewing the animal patient's relevant medical history, and,
40 if available, medical records. If medical records exist from a

1 previous in-person visit and are available to the client, the client
2 may transmit those records, including any diagnostic data contained
3 therein, to the veterinarian electronically.

4 (3) Employ sound professional judgment to determine whether
5 using telehealth is an appropriate method for delivering medical
6 advice or treatment to the animal patient and providing quality of
7 care consistent with prevailing veterinary medical practice.

8 (4) Be familiar with available medical resources, including
9 emergency resources near the animal patient's location, be able to
10 provide the client with a list of nearby veterinarians who may be
11 able to see the animal patient in person upon the request of the
12 client, and keep, maintain, and make available a copy or summary
13 of the animal patient record, as specified in Section 4855.

14 (5) Provide the client with the veterinarian's name, contact
15 information, and license number.

16 (6) Secure an alternative means of contacting the client if the
17 electronic means is interrupted.

18 (i) (1) A veterinarian shall not prescribe a drug for a duration
19 of time that is inconsistent with the medical condition of the animal
20 patient or the type of drug prescribed.

21 (2) A veterinarian who established the required
22 veterinarian-client-patient relationship by examining the animal
23 patient in person or by making medically appropriate and timely
24 visits to the premises on which the animal patient is kept shall not
25 prescribe a drug for a duration of time that is longer than one year
26 from the date that the veterinarian examined the animal patient in
27 person or visited the premises and prescribed the drug.

28 (3) Except as provided in paragraphs (4) to (8), inclusive, a
29 veterinarian who practices veterinary medicine via telehealth may
30 order, prescribe, or make available drugs, as defined in Section
31 11014 of the Health and Safety Code, in accordance with all
32 relevant state and federal regulations.

33 (4) A veterinarian who established the required
34 veterinarian-client-patient relationship using synchronous
35 audio-video communication shall not prescribe a drug to the animal
36 patient for use for a period longer than six months from the date
37 upon which the veterinarian examined the animal patient or
38 prescribed the drug. The veterinarian shall not issue another
39 prescription to the animal patient for the same drug unless they

1 have conducted another examination of the animal patient, either
2 in person or using telehealth.

3 (5) A veterinarian who established the required
4 veterinarian-client-patient relationship using synchronous
5 audio-video communication shall not prescribe an antimicrobial
6 drug to the animal patient for a period longer than 14 days of
7 treatment. The veterinarian shall not issue any further antimicrobial
8 drug prescription, including a refill, to treat the condition of the
9 animal patient unless the veterinarian has conducted an in-person
10 examination of the animal patient.

11 (6) The veterinarian shall not order, prescribe, or make available
12 a controlled substance, as defined in Section 4021, or xylazine,
13 unless the veterinarian has performed an in-person physical
14 examination of the animal patient or made medically appropriate
15 and timely visits to the premises where the animal patient is kept.

16 (7) The veterinarian shall notify the client that some prescription
17 drugs or medications may be available at a pharmacy and, if
18 requested, the veterinarian shall submit a prescription to a
19 pharmacy that the client chooses.

20 (8) A veterinarian shall not prescribe via telehealth any drug or
21 medication for use on a horse engaged in racing or training at a
22 facility under the jurisdiction of the California Horse Racing Board
23 pursuant to Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 19400) of
24 Division 8.

25 (j) As used in this section, “drug” means any controlled
26 substance, as defined in Section 4021, or any dangerous drug, as
27 defined in Section 4022.

28 (k) A veterinarian is permitted to use telehealth without
29 establishing a veterinarian-client-patient relationship in order to
30 provide advice in an emergency, as defined in Section 4840.5.

31 *SEC. 7. Section 4827 of the Business and Professions Code is*
32 *amended to read:*

33 4827. (a) Nothing in this chapter prohibits any person from:

34 (1) Practicing veterinary medicine as a bona fide owner of one’s
35 own animals. This exemption applies to the following:

36 (A) The owner’s bona fide employees.

37 (B) Any person assisting the owner, provided that the practice
38 is performed gratuitously.

39 (2) Lay testing of poultry by the whole blood agglutination test.

40 For purposes of this section, “poultry” means flocks of avian

1 species maintained for food production, including, but not limited
2 to, chickens, turkeys, and exotic fowl.

3 (3) Making any determination as to the status of pregnancy,
4 sterility, or infertility upon livestock, equine, or food animals at
5 the time an animal is being inseminated, providing no charge is
6 made for this determination.

7 (4) Administering sodium pentobarbital for euthanasia of sick,
8 injured, homeless, or surrendered domestic pets or animals without
9 the presence of a veterinarian when the person is *administering*
10 *the treatment in their capacity as* an employee of an animal control
11 shelter and its agencies or humane society and has received proper
12 training in the administration of sodium pentobarbital for these
13 purposes.

14 (5) Providing the following care to animals lawfully deposited
15 with or impounded by a shelter not registered with the board
16 pursuant to Section 4853:

17 (A) Administering preventative or prophylactic nonprescription
18 vaccinations to the animal pursuant to protocols written by a
19 veterinarian licensed in this state for the purposes of preventing
20 the spread of communicable diseases, without the presence of a
21 veterinarian when the person has received proper training in the
22 administration of the nonprescription preventative or prophylactic
23 vaccinations.

24 (B) Administering nonprescription medications to the animal
25 pursuant to protocols written by a veterinarian licensed in this
26 state, for the control or eradication of apparent or anticipated
27 internal or external parasites, including, but not limited to, fleas,
28 ticks, or worms, without the presence of a veterinarian when the
29 person has received proper training in the administration of the
30 nonprescription medications for the control or eradication of those
31 internal or external parasites. A person's decision to administer
32 these medications shall not be construed to mean the person has
33 made a diagnosis of the animal's medical condition.

34 (C) Administering medications prescribed by a veterinarian
35 licensed in the state to the animal without the presence of a
36 veterinarian when the shelter has received a written treatment plan
37 from the licensed veterinarian for that specific animal and has a
38 dispensing protocol in place for the tracking of dispensed
39 prescribed medications and when the person has received proper
40 training in the administration of prescription medications.

(b) For the purposes of paragraph (5) of subdivision (a):

(1) “Proper training” means completing a training curriculum of at least four hours provided by a veterinarian licensed to practice in this state, and includes, but is not limited to, an overview of intake procedures and preventative medicine, recognizing when an animal is required to be seen by a veterinarian, prescription and nonprescription medications, humane animal restraint techniques, vaccination injection methods and procedures, and documentation.

(2) “Shelter” means a public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, or humane society shelter that is not registered with the board pursuant to Section 4853.

(c) A shelter providing care to an animal pursuant to this section that is not registered with the board pursuant to Section 4853 shall report to the board any adverse event resulting in significant impairment or death from the care provided, on a form prescribed by the board, including severe injuries, infections, and unintended reactions caused by the incorrect or inappropriate administration of a vaccine or medications.

~~SEC. 6:~~

~~SEC. 8.~~ Section 4836.2 of the Business and Professions Code is repealed.

~~SEC. 7:~~

~~SEC. 9.~~ Section 4836.2 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

4836.2. (a) To obtain a veterinary assistant controlled substance permit in California, an individual shall satisfy the following requirements:

(1) Complete and submit an application furnished by the board.

(2) Pay the applicable fees specified in Section 4905.

(3) Pursuant to Section 144, submit a full set of fingerprints for the purpose of conducting a criminal history record check and undergoing a state and federal criminal offender record information search conducted through the Department of Justice, pursuant to subdivision (u) of Section 11105 of the Penal Code. The Department of Justice shall provide a state or federal response to the board pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (p) of Section 11105 of the Penal Code.

(b) The applicant shall disclose each state, Canadian province, or United States territory in which the applicant currently holds

1 or has ever held a license, registration, certificate, or permit to
2 practice veterinary medicine. License verification, including any
3 disciplinary or enforcement history, shall be confirmed through
4 electronic means or direct submission from each state, Canadian
5 province, or United States territory in which the applicant has
6 identified that the applicant holds or has ever held a license to
7 practice veterinary medicine.

8 (c) A veterinary assistant controlled substance permit application
9 shall be subject to denial pursuant to Sections 480 and 4883.

10 ~~SEC. 8.~~

11 *SEC. 10.* Section 4837 of the Business and Professions Code
12 is repealed.

13 ~~SEC. 9.~~

14 *SEC. 11.* Section 4838 of the Business and Professions Code
15 is repealed.

16 ~~SEC. 10.~~

17 *SEC. 12.* Section 4839 of the Business and Professions Code
18 is amended to read:

19 4839. For purposes of this article, “registered veterinary
20 technician” means a person who has met the requirements set forth
21 in Section 4841.5 and is registered by the board.

22 ~~SEC. 11.~~

23 *SEC. 13.* Section 4841.1 of the Business and Professions Code
24 is amended to read:

25 4841.1. This article shall not apply to students in a California
26 veterinary technology program who perform the job tasks for
27 registered veterinary technicians as part of their educational
28 experience, including students both on and off campus acting under
29 the direct supervision of a California licensed ~~veterinarian~~.
30 *veterinarian, except that those students shall only administer*
31 *controlled substances and perform drug compounding under the*
32 *immediate supervision of a registered veterinary technician or*
33 *California licensed veterinarian.* For purposes of this section,
34 “immediate supervision” means supervision by a person who is
35 within audible and visual range of both the animal patient and the
36 person being supervised.

37 ~~SEC. 12.~~

38 *SEC. 14.* Section 4841.4 of the Business and Professions Code
39 is amended to read:

1 4841.4. (a) The board, by means of examination, shall
2 determine the professional qualifications of all applicants who
3 wish to register as veterinary technicians in California. A
4 registration shall not be issued to anyone who has not demonstrated
5 their competency by examination.

6 (b) The examination for veterinary technicians shall consist of
7 a national licensing examination.

8 (c) For examination purposes, the board may make contractual
9 arrangements on a sole source basis with organizations furnishing
10 examination material as it may deem desirable and shall be exempt
11 from Section 10115 of the Public Contract Code.

12 ~~SEC. 13.~~

13 *SEC. 15.* Section 4841.5 of the Business and Professions Code
14 is amended to read:

15 4841.5. (a) To obtain registration as a registered veterinary
16 technician, the applicant shall satisfy the following requirements:

17 (1) Complete and submit an application upon a form furnished
18 by the board.

19 (2) Pay the applicable fees specified in Section 4905.

20 (3) Pursuant to Section 144, submit a full set of fingerprints for
21 the purpose of conducting a criminal history record check and
22 undergo a state and federal criminal offender record information
23 search conducted through the Department of Justice, pursuant to
24 subdivision (u) of Section 11105 of the Penal Code. The
25 Department of Justice shall provide a state or federal response to
26 the board pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (p) of Section
27 11105 of the Penal Code.

28 (4) Furnish satisfactory evidence of one of the following:

29 (A) Graduation from, at minimum, a two-year curriculum in
30 veterinary technology, in a college or other postsecondary
31 institution accredited by the American Veterinary Medical
32 Association or the equivalent thereof, as determined by the board.
33 (AVMA). In the case of a private postsecondary institution, the
34 institution shall also be approved by the Bureau for Private
35 Postsecondary Education (*BPPE*). Proof of graduation
36 shall be confirmed through electronic means or direct submission
37 from the college, other postsecondary institution, or American
38 Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB).

39 (B) ~~Education or a~~ A combination of education and clinical
40 practice experience, as determined by the board. *All education*

1 *shall be accredited by the AVMA or the Accrediting Commission*
2 *for Community and Junior Colleges, or approved by the BPPE.*

3 (C) Graduation from a veterinary college recognized by the
4 board. Proof of graduation shall be confirmed through electronic
5 means or direct submission from the veterinary college or the
6 AAVSB.

7 (D) Education equivalency certified by the AAVSB's Program
8 for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE)
9 for Veterinary Technicians. The certificate of education
10 equivalence shall be confirmed through electronic means or direct
11 submission from the American Association of Veterinary State
12 Boards.

13 (E) Education equivalency certified by the Educational
14 Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG) or PAVE.
15 The certificate of education equivalence shall be confirmed through
16 electronic means or direct submission from ECFVG or PAVE.

17 (5) Pass the national licensing examination for veterinary
18 technicians. If the applicant passed the national licensing
19 examination over five years from the date of submitting the
20 veterinary technician registration application, the applicant shall
21 perform one of the following:

22 (A) Retake and pass the national licensing examination.

23 (B) Submit proof of having practiced clinical veterinary
24 medicine for a minimum of two years and completed a minimum
25 of 2,500 hours of clinical practice in another state, Canadian
26 province, or United States territory within the three years
27 immediately preceding filing an application for licensure in this
28 state.

29 ~~(i) The directed clinical practice shall have provided the~~
30 ~~applicant with knowledge, skills, and abilities in the areas of~~
31 ~~communication with clients, patient examinations, emergency~~
32 ~~procedures, laboratory procedures, diagnostic imaging, surgical~~
33 ~~assisting, anesthesia, animal nursing, nutrition, dentistry, animal~~
34 ~~behavior, and pharmacology.~~

35 ~~(ii) The supervising veterinarian shall complete a checklist~~
36 ~~attesting to the proficiency in the skill areas described in clause~~
37 ~~(i).~~

38 (C) Complete the minimum continuing education requirements
39 of Section 4858.2 for the current and preceding year.

(b) The applicant shall disclose each state, Canadian province, or United States territory in which the applicant currently holds or has ever held a license, registration, certificate, or permit to practice veterinary medicine. License verification, including any disciplinary or enforcement history, shall be confirmed through electronic means or direct submission from each state, Canadian province, or United States territory in which the applicant has identified that the applicant holds or has ever held a license to practice veterinary medicine.

(c) An application for veterinary technician registration shall be subject to denial pursuant to Sections 480 and 4883.

~~SEC. 14.~~

SEC. 16. Section 4842 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4842. The board may deny a registered veterinary technician application if the applicant has done any of the following:

(a) Committed any act that would be grounds for the suspension or revocation of registration under this chapter.

(b) While unregistered, committed, or aided and abetted the commission of, any act for which a certificate of registration is required by this chapter.

(c) Knowingly made any false statement in the application.

(d) Been convicted of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions and duties of a registered veterinary technician.

(e) Committed any act that resulted in a revocation by another state of the applicant's license, registration, or other procedure by virtue of which one is licensed or allowed to practice veterinary technology in that state.

~~SEC. 15.~~

SEC. 17. Section 4842.1 of the Business and Professions Code is repealed.

~~SEC. 16.~~

SEC. 18. Section 4843 of the Business and Professions Code is repealed.

~~SEC. 17.~~

SEC. 19. Section 4845.5 of the Business and Professions Code is repealed.

SEC. 20. Section 4846 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

1 4846. (a) In order to obtain a license to practice veterinary
2 medicine in California, an individual shall meet the following
3 requirements:

4 (1) Graduate from a veterinary college recognized by the board
5 or receive a certificate from the Educational Commission for
6 Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG) or the Program for the
7 Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE). Proof
8 of graduation shall be directly submitted to the board by the
9 veterinary college or from the American Association of Veterinary
10 State Boards (AAVSB). Proof of certificate shall be directly
11 submitted to the board by ECFVG or PAVE.

12 (2) Complete a board-approved license application.

13 (3) Pay the applicable fees specified in Section 4905.

14 (4) As directed by the board pursuant to Section 144, submit a
15 full set of fingerprints for the purpose of conducting a criminal
16 history record check and undergo a state and federal criminal
17 offender record information search conducted through the
18 Department of Justice, pursuant to subdivision (u) of Section 11105
19 of the Penal Code. The Department of Justice shall provide a state
20 or federal response to the board pursuant to paragraph (1) of
21 subdivision (p) of Section 11105 of the Penal Code.

22 (5) Pass an examination consisting of the following:

23 (A) A licensing examination that is administered on a national
24 basis. If the applicant passed the national licensing examination
25 over five years from the date of submitting the California
26 veterinarian license application, the applicant shall satisfy one of
27 the following:

28 (i) Retake and pass the national licensing examination.

29 (ii) Submit proof of having practiced clinical veterinary medicine
30 for a minimum of two years and completed a minimum of 2,500
31 hours of clinical practice in another state, Canadian province, or
32 United States territory within the three years immediately preceding
33 filing an application for licensure in this state.

34 (iii) Complete the minimum continuing education requirements
35 of Section ~~4846.5~~ 4858.1 for the current and preceding year.

36 (B) A veterinary law examination administered by the board
37 concerning the statutes and regulations of this chapter. The
38 examination may be administered by regular mail, email, or by
39 other electronic means. The applicant shall certify that the applicant
40 personally completed the examination. Any false statement is a

1 violation subject to Section 4831. Every applicant who obtains a
2 score of at least 80 percent on the veterinary law examination shall
3 be deemed to have passed. University of California and Western
4 University of Health Sciences veterinary medical students who
5 have successfully completed a board-approved course on veterinary
6 law and ethics covering this chapter shall be exempt from this
7 subparagraph.

8 (b) The applicant shall disclose each state, Canadian province,
9 or United States territory in which the applicant currently holds
10 or has ever held a license to practice veterinary medicine. License
11 verification, including any disciplinary or enforcement history,
12 shall be confirmed through electronic means or direct submission
13 from each state, Canadian province, or United States territory in
14 which the applicant has identified the applicant holds or has ever
15 held a license to practice veterinary medicine.

16 (c) A veterinarian license application shall be subject to denial
17 pursuant to Sections 480, 4875, and 4883.

18 ~~SEC. 18.~~

19 *SEC. 21.* Section 4846.5 of the Business and Professions Code
20 is repealed.

21 *SEC. 22. Section 4848.1 of the Business and Professions Code*
22 *is amended to read:*

23 4848.1. (a) A veterinarian engaged in the practice of veterinary
24 medicine, as defined in Section 4826, employed by the University
25 of California and engaged in the performance of duties in
26 connection with the School of Veterinary Medicine or employed
27 by the Western University of Health Sciences and engaged in the
28 performance of duties in connection with the College of Veterinary
29 Medicine shall be issued a university license pursuant to this
30 section or hold a license to practice veterinary medicine in this
31 state.

32 (b) An individual may apply for and be issued a university
33 license if all of the following are satisfied:

34 (1) The applicant is currently employed by the University of
35 California or Western University of Health Sciences, as defined
36 in subdivision (a).

37 (2) The applicant passes an examination concerning the statutes
38 and regulations of this chapter, administered by the board, pursuant
39 to subparagraph ~~(C)~~ (B) of paragraph ~~(2)~~ (5) of subdivision (a) of
40 Section ~~4848~~: 4846.

(3) The applicant completes and submits the application specified by the board and pays the application and the initial license fee, pursuant to Section 4905.

(c) A university license:

(1) Shall automatically cease to be valid upon termination or cessation of employment by the University of California or by the Western University of Health Sciences.

(2) Shall be subject to the license renewal provisions in Section 4900 and the payment of the renewal fee pursuant to subdivision (g) of Section 4905.

(3) Shall be subject to denial, revocation, or suspension pursuant to Sections 480, 4875, and 4883.

(4) Authorizes the holder to practice veterinary medicine only at an educational institution described in subdivision (a) and any locations formally affiliated with those institutions.

(d) An individual who holds a university license is exempt from satisfying the license renewal requirements of Section ~~4846.5~~ 4858.1.

~~SEC. 19.~~

SEC. 23. Section 4855 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4855. (a) A veterinarian subject to the provisions of this chapter shall, as required by regulation of the board, keep a written record of all animals receiving veterinary services, and provide a copy of that record to the client or the client's authorized agent within five days of receiving the client's or the client's authorized agent's verbal or written request.

(b) If requested verbally or in writing by the client or the client's authorized agent because the animal is in critical condition or direct transfer to another veterinary premises for medical care is recommended, the veterinarian, upon release of the animal patient from the veterinarian's care, shall either:

(1) Provide a copy or summary of the written record to the client or the client's authorized agent.

(2) If a written record is not available upon release of the animal patient, communicate information to facilitate continuity of care of the animal patient either to:

(A) The receiving veterinarian or veterinary premises.

(B) The client or the client's authorized agent if the receiving veterinary premises is unknown.

1 (c) The minimum amount of information that shall be included
2 in written records and summaries shall be established by the board.

3 (d) The minimum duration of time for which a registered
4 veterinary premises shall retain the written record or a complete
5 copy of the written record shall be determined by the board.

6 ~~SEC. 20.~~

7 *SEC. 24.* Section 4855.1 is added to the Business and
8 Professions Code, to read:

9 4855.1. Within 30 days of receiving a written or verbal request
10 by the client or their authorized agent for a record of client
11 payments, the licensee manager of the veterinary premises shall
12 provide a record of client payments made to the veterinary premises
13 related to services and treatment provided. A record of client
14 payments made to the veterinary premises related to services and
15 treatments provided shall be maintained for a minimum of three
16 years after the animal's last visits.

17 *SEC. 25. Section 4856 of the Business and Professions Code*
18 *is amended to read:*

19 4856. (a) All records required by law to be kept by a
20 veterinarian subject to this chapter, including, but not limited to,
21 records pertaining to diagnosis and treatment of animals and
22 records pertaining to drugs or devices for use on animals, shall be
23 open to inspection by the board, or its authorized representatives,
24 during an inspection as part of a regular inspection program by
25 the board, or during an investigation initiated in response to a
26 complaint that a licensee has violated any law or regulation that
27 constitutes grounds for disciplinary action by the board. A copy
28 of all those records shall be provided to the board immediately
29 upon request.

30 (b) Equipment and drugs on the premises, or any other place,
31 where veterinary medicine, veterinary dentistry, veterinary surgery,
32 or the various branches thereof is being practiced, or otherwise in
33 the possession of a veterinarian for purposes of that practice, shall
34 be open to inspection by the board, or its authorized representatives,
35 during an inspection as part of a regular inspection program by
36 the board, or during an investigation initiated in response to a
37 complaint that a licensee has violated any law or regulation that
38 constitutes grounds for disciplinary action by the board.

39 (c) *The licensee manager for the registered veterinary premises*
40 *shall make any records related to the services a veterinarian has*

1 *provided on behalf of the registered veterinary premises available*
2 *for inspection by that veterinarian.*

3 ~~SEC. 21.~~

4 SEC. 26. Article 3.1 (commencing with Section 4858) is added
5 to Chapter 11 of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code,
6 to read:

7
8 Article 3.1. Continuing Education
9

10 4858. (a) Except for the first renewal period, all holders of
11 veterinarian licenses and veterinary technician registrations issued
12 under the provisions of this chapter shall obtain continuing
13 education relevant to developments in the practice of veterinary
14 medicine.

15 (b) A person applying for renewal of their license or registration
16 in active status shall certify, under penalty of perjury, that they are
17 in compliance with this article, as applicable.

18 (c) The board shall have the right to audit the records of all
19 applicants to verify the completion of the continuing education
20 requirement. Applicants shall maintain records of completion of
21 required continuing education coursework for a period of four
22 years and shall make these records available to the board upon
23 request for auditing purposes. If the board, during this audit,
24 questions whether any course reported by the applicant satisfies
25 the continuing education requirement, the applicant shall provide
26 information to the board concerning the content of the course,
27 course hours, and the name of its sponsor and cosponsor.

28 (d) An applicant may apply for an inactive license or to restore
29 an inactive license under the provisions of Article 9 (commencing
30 with Section 700) of Chapter 1.

31 (e) Notwithstanding Section 4858.1, the board, in its discretion,
32 may exempt from the continuing education requirement an
33 applicant who for reasons of health, military service, or undue
34 hardship cannot meet those requirements. Applications for waivers
35 shall be submitted on a form provided by the board.

36 4858.1. (a) The board shall issue renewed veterinarian licenses
37 only to those applicants who have completed a minimum of 36
38 hours of continuing education in the preceding two years.

39 (b) Continuing education hours for veterinarians shall be earned
40 as follows:

1 (1) Attending courses relevant to veterinary medicine and
2 sponsored or cosponsored by any of the following:

3 (A) The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA),
4 its accredited veterinary medical colleges, or its recognized
5 specialty or affiliated allied groups or educational organizations.

6 (B) State veterinary medical associations or their affiliated
7 associations or educational organizations.

8 (C) Federal, state, or local government agencies.

9 (D) Providers accredited, approved, or recognized by the
10 Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education
11 (ACCME), American Medical Association (AMA), American
12 Dental Association Continuing Education Recognition Program
13 (ADA CERP), or American Association of Veterinary State Boards
14 (AAVSB).

15 (2) A total of 6 hours or fewer of the required 36 hours of
16 continuing education may be earned by doing either of the
17 following, or a combination thereof:

18 (A) Up to six hours may be earned by taking self-study courses,
19 which may include, but are not limited to, reading journals, viewing
20 video recordings, or listening to audio recordings.

21 (B) Up to four hours may be earned by providing pro bono
22 spaying or neutering services for a public animal control agency
23 or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter,
24 humane society shelter, or rescue group in compliance with the
25 following:

26 (i) The services shall be performed at a veterinary premises
27 registered with the board pursuant to Section 4853.

28 (ii) Proof of completion of continuing education pursuant to
29 this subparagraph shall be documented by the director or
30 administrator of the public animal control agency or shelter, society
31 for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society
32 shelter, or rescue group, with a copy provided to the veterinarian,
33 and include the date of performing the spaying and neutering
34 services, the name, address, and telephone number of the entity
35 for which the spaying and neutering services were provided, and
36 the name, address, and veterinary premises registration where the
37 spaying and neutering services were performed.

38 (3) A veterinarian who teaches a course specified in
39 subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, of paragraph (1) of subdivision

1 (b) may receive continuing education credit for the course one
2 time during a renewal period.

3 (4) Up to 16 hours of continuing education credit may be earned
4 by participating as an expert in an examination preparation
5 workshop for the national licensing examination.

6 (5) Up to 24 hours of continuing education credit may be earned
7 for completing courses in business practice management or licensee
8 mental health and wellness and its impact on the delivery of
9 veterinary services.

10 (6) Up to one hour of continuing education credit may be earned
11 by passing the Veterinary Law Examination (VLE).

12 (7) Up to two hours of continuing education credit may be
13 earned by attending a board of Veterinary Medicine
14 Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee meeting, as verified by the
15 board.

16 (c) Providers offering continuing education courses pursuant to
17 paragraph (1) or (2) of subdivision (b) shall comply with the
18 requirements of Section 4858.3.

19 (d) For good cause, the board may adopt an order specifying,
20 on a prospective basis, that a course provider authorized pursuant
21 to paragraph (1) or (2) of subdivision (b) is no longer an acceptable
22 provider.

23 (e) (1) A licensed veterinarian who renews their license shall
24 complete a minimum of one credit hour of continuing education
25 on the judicious use of medically important antimicrobial drugs
26 every four years as part of their continuing education requirements.

27 (2) For purposes of this subdivision, “medically important
28 antimicrobial drug” means an antimicrobial drug listed in Appendix
29 A of the federal Food and Drug Administration’s Guidance for
30 Industry #152, including critically important, highly important,
31 and important antimicrobial drugs, as that appendix may be
32 amended.

33 4858.2. (a) The board shall issue renewed veterinary technician
34 registrations only to those applicants who have completed a
35 minimum of 20 hours of continuing education in the preceding
36 two years.

37 (b) Continuing education hours for registered veterinary
38 technicians shall be earned as follows:

39 (1) Attending courses provided by those specified in
40 subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, of paragraph (1) of subdivision

(b) of Section 4858.1 or sponsored or cosponsored by one of the following:

(A) National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA) recognized veterinary technician specialty organizations.

(B) State veterinary technician associations recognized by the secretary of state in that state.

(2) Up to 4 hours of the required 20 hours of continuing education may be earned by doing either of the following, or a combination thereof:

(A) Up to four hours may be earned by taking self-study courses, which may include, but are not limited to, reading journals, viewing video recordings, or listening to audio recordings.

(B) Up to two hours may be earned by performing pro bono animal health care tasks related to spaying or neutering services for a public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group in compliance with the following:

(i) The services shall be performed under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian at a veterinary premises registered with the board pursuant to Section 4853.

(ii) Proof of completion of continuing education pursuant to this subparagraph shall be documented, with a copy provided to the registered veterinary technician, by the supervising veterinarian and include the date of performance of animal health care tasks, the name, address, and telephone number of the entity for which the animal health care tasks were provided, the name and veterinarian license number of the supervising veterinarian, and the name, address, and veterinary premises registration where the animal health care tasks were performed.

(3) A registered ~~veterinarian~~ *veterinary* technician who teaches a course described in paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) may receive continuing education credit for the course one time during a renewal period.

(4) Up to nine hours of continuing education credit may be earned by participating as an expert in an examination preparation workshop for the national licensing examination.

(5) Up to 13 hours of continuing education credit may be earned for completing courses in business practice management or mental health and wellness and its impact on the delivery of veterinary services.

(6) Up to one hour of continuing education credit may be earned by passing the Veterinary Law Examination.

(7) Up to two hours of continuing education credit may be earned by attending a board or Veterinary Medicine Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee meeting, as verified by the board.

(c) Providers offering continuing education courses pursuant to paragraph (1) or (2) of subdivision (b) shall comply with the requirements of Section 4858.3.

(d) For good cause, the board may adopt an order specifying, on a prospective basis, that a continuing education source authorized pursuant to paragraph (1) or (2) of subdivision (b) is no longer an acceptable source.

4858.3. (a) Upon a course attendee's completion of a continuing education course sponsored by a provider pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section 4858.1 or paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section 4858.2, as applicable, the course provider shall issue to the course attendee a certificate of course completion containing the following:

(1) The name of the attendee.

(2) The course title.

(3) The provider name and address.

(4) The provider number assigned by the entity accrediting, approving, or recognizing the course provider, if applicable, and the name of that entity.

(5) The date of the course.

(6) The number of continuing education hours granted for the course.

(7) The signature of the course instructor, provider, or provider designee.

(b) For providers that hold continuing education events with multiple and concurrent courses, the record of course completion shall specify both of the following:

(1) The information specified in paragraphs (1) to (7), inclusive, of subdivision (a).

(2) The maximum number of hours offered at the continuing education event, accompanied by a log of the actual courses attended by the attendee. The log of courses attended shall be completed by either the provider or the attendee.

(c) The course provider shall maintain records related to continuing education courses provided for a period of four years from the date the course was completed. The records shall include:

- (1) Syllabi or course outlines for each course.
- (2) The time and location of each course.
- (3) Course instructors' curriculum-vitae or resumes.
- (4) Registration rosters with the names and addresses of individuals who attended the courses.
- (5) A sample of the record of course completion form provided to attendees for verifying attendance.
- (6) A sample of the evaluation form completed by attendees.

~~SEC. 22.~~

SEC. 27. Section 4875 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4875. In addition to its authority to suspend or revoke a license, registration, or permit, the board shall have the authority to assess a fine not in excess of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) against a licensee, registrant, or permitholder for any of the causes specified in Section 4883. A fine may be assessed in lieu of or in addition to a suspension or revocation. Notwithstanding Section 4903, all fines collected pursuant to this section shall be deposited to the credit of the California Veterinary Medical Board Contingent Fund.

~~SEC. 23.~~

SEC. 28. Section 4875.1 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4875.1. (a) In order to ensure that its resources are maximized for the protection of the public, the board shall prioritize its investigative and prosecutorial resources to ensure that individuals representing the greatest threat of harm are identified and disciplined expeditiously. Cases involving any of the following allegations shall be handled on a priority basis, as follows, with the highest priority being given to cases in paragraph (1):

- (1) Negligence or incompetence that involves death or serious bodily injury to an animal patient, such that the individual represents a danger to the public.
- (2) Cruelty to animals.
- (3) A conviction or convictions for a criminal charge or charges or being subject to a felony criminal proceeding without consideration of the outcome of the proceeding.

1 (4) Practicing veterinary medicine while under the influence of
2 drugs or alcohol.

3 (5) Drug or alcohol abuse by an individual involving death or
4 serious bodily injury to an animal patient or to the public.

5 (6) Self-prescribing of any dangerous drug, as defined in Section
6 4022, or any controlled substance, as defined in Section 4021.

7 (7) Repeated acts of excessive prescribing, furnishing, or
8 administering of controlled substances, as defined in Section 4021,
9 or repeated acts of prescribing, dispensing, or furnishing of
10 controlled substances, as defined in Section 4021, without having
11 first established a veterinarian-client-patient relationship pursuant
12 to Section 4826.6.

13 (8) Extreme departures from minimum sanitary conditions such
14 that there is a threat to an animal patient or the public and animal
15 health and safety, only if the case has already been subject to
16 Section 494 and board action.

17 (b) The board may prioritize cases involving an allegation of
18 conduct that is not described in subdivision (a). Those cases
19 prioritized shall not be assigned a priority equal to or higher than
20 the priorities established in subdivision (a).

21 (c) The board shall annually report and make publicly available
22 the number of disciplinary actions that are taken in each priority
23 category specified in subdivisions (a) and (b).

24 ~~SEC. 24.~~

25 *SEC. 29.* Section 4875.2 of the Business and Professions Code
26 is amended to read:

27 4875.2. If, upon completion of an investigation, the executive
28 officer has probable cause to believe that a veterinarian, registered
29 veterinary technician, veterinary assistant controlled substance
30 permitholder, or veterinary premises registration holder has violated
31 provisions of this chapter, the executive officer may issue a citation
32 to the veterinarian, registered veterinary technician, veterinary
33 assistant controlled substance permitholder, or veterinary premises
34 registration holder in accordance with Section 125.9 and the
35 board's regulations established pursuant thereto.

36 ~~SEC. 25.~~

37 *SEC. 30.* Section 4875.7 is added to the Business and
38 Professions Code, to read:

39 4875.7. (a) Notwithstanding paragraph (3) of subdivision (b)
40 of Section 125.9 and Section 148, the executive officer may issue

1 a citation to a person or entity, and that person or entity shall be
2 subject to an administrative fine of no less than two thousand
3 dollars (\$2,000) and not exceeding ten thousand dollars (\$10,000)
4 for each violation of practicing or offering to practice veterinary
5 medicine without a license, registration, or permit issued by the
6 board pursuant to this chapter. The maximum fine for unlicensed
7 activity is separate and not inclusive of fines for other violations.

8 (b) Administrative fines collected pursuant to this section shall
9 be deposited in accordance with Section 4903.

10 ~~SEC. 26.~~

11 ~~SEC. 31.~~ Section 4876 of the Business and Professions Code
12 is repealed.

13 ~~SEC. 27.~~

14 ~~SEC. 32.~~ Section 4881 of the Business and Professions Code
15 is repealed.

16 ~~SEC. 28.~~

17 ~~SEC. 33.~~ Section 4882 is added to the Business and Professions
18 Code, to read:

19 4882. (a) The proceedings under this article shall be conducted
20 in accordance with Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500)
21 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, and the
22 board shall have the powers granted therein.

23 (b) Notwithstanding subdivision (b) of Section 11415.60 of the
24 Government Code, a licensee, registrant, or permitholder may
25 enter into a settlement to resolve an administrative action, including
26 through license, registration, or permit surrender, suspension or
27 revocation, or placing the license, registration, or permit on
28 probation, instead of a commencement of proceedings pursuant
29 to Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of
30 Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code. That settlement
31 shall be subject to board approval or a counteroffer of terms of the
32 settlement action. At any time prior to the issuance of a decision
33 and order by the board adopting the settlement, the licensee,
34 registrant, or permitholder may withdraw the settlement and request
35 a commencement of proceedings pursuant to subdivision (a). The
36 decision and order adopting the settlement shall be considered
37 discipline and shall be posted on the board's internet website.

38 ~~SEC. 29.~~

39 ~~SEC. 34.~~ Section 4883 of the Business and Professions Code
40 is amended to read:

1 4883. The board may deny, revoke, suspend, or place on
2 probation a license, registration, or permit or assess a fine as
3 provided in Section 4875 for any of the following:

4 (a) Conviction of a crime substantially related to the
5 qualifications, functions, or duties of veterinary medicine, surgery,
6 or dentistry, in which case the record of the conviction shall be
7 conclusive evidence.

8 (b) For having professional connection with, or lending the
9 licensee's, registrant's, or permitholder's name to, any illegal
10 practitioner of veterinary medicine and the various branches
11 thereof.

12 (c) Violation or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, any
13 of the provisions of this chapter.

14 (d) Fraud or dishonesty in applying, treating, or reporting on
15 tuberculin or other biological tests.

16 (e) Employment of anyone but a veterinarian licensed in the
17 state to demonstrate the use of biologics in the treatment of animals.

18 (f) False or misleading advertising.

19 (g) Unprofessional conduct, that includes, but is not limited to,
20 the following:

21 (1) Conviction of a charge of violating any federal statutes or
22 rules or any statute or rule of this state regulating dangerous drugs
23 or controlled substances. The record of the conviction is conclusive
24 evidence thereof. A plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction
25 following a plea of nolo contendere is deemed to be a conviction
26 within the meaning of this section. The board may order the license,
27 registration, or permit to be suspended or revoked, or assess a fine,
28 or decline to issue a license, registration, or permit when the time
29 for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been
30 affirmed on appeal or when an order granting probation is made
31 suspending the imposition of sentence, irrespective of a subsequent
32 order under Section 1203.4, 1210.1, or 3063.1 of the Penal Code
33 allowing the person to withdraw a plea of guilty and to enter a plea
34 of not guilty, or setting aside the verdict of guilty, or dismissing
35 the accusation, information, or indictment.

36 (2) (A) The use of, or prescribing for or administering to
37 oneself, any controlled substance.

38 (B) The use of any of the dangerous drugs specified in Section
39 4022, or of alcoholic beverages to the extent, or in any manner as
40 to be dangerous or injurious to a person issued a license,

1 registration, or permit under this chapter, or to any other person
2 or to the public, or to the extent that the use impairs the ability of
3 the licensee, registrant, or permitholder to conduct with safety the
4 practice authorized by the license, registration, or permit.

5 (C) The conviction of more than one misdemeanor or any felony
6 involving the use, consumption, or self-administration of any of
7 the substances referred to in this section or any combination
8 thereof, and the record of the conviction is conclusive evidence.

9 A plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of
10 nolo contendere is deemed to be a conviction within the meaning
11 of this section. The board may order the license, registration, or
12 permit to be suspended or revoked or assess a fine, or may decline
13 to issue a license, registration, or permit when the time for appeal
14 has elapsed or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on
15 appeal or when an order granting probation is made suspending
16 imposition of sentence, irrespective of a subsequent order under
17 Section 1203.4, 1210.1, or 3063.1 of the Penal Code allowing the
18 person to withdraw a plea of guilty and to enter a plea of not guilty,
19 or setting aside the verdict of guilty, or dismissing the accusation,
20 information, or indictment.

21 (3) A violation of any federal statute, rule, or regulation or any
22 of the statutes, rules, or regulations of this state regulating
23 dangerous drugs, including antimicrobial drugs in animal feed, or
24 controlled substances.

25 (h) Failure to keep the licensee's or registrant's premises and
26 all equipment therein in a clean and sanitary condition.

27 (i) Fraud, deception, negligence, or incompetence in the practice
28 of veterinary medicine.

29 (j) Aiding or abetting in any acts that are in violation of any of
30 the provisions of this chapter.

31 (k) The employment of fraud, misrepresentation, or deception
32 in obtaining the license, registration, or permit.

33 (l) The revocation, suspension, or other discipline by another
34 state or territory of a license, certificate, or registration to practice
35 veterinary medicine or as a veterinary technician in that state or
36 territory.

37 (m) Cruelty to animals, conviction on a charge of cruelty to
38 animals, or both.

39 (n) Disciplinary action taken by any public agency in any state
40 or territory for any act substantially related to the practice of

1 veterinary medicine or the practice of a veterinary technician, or
2 veterinary assistant controlled substance permitholder.

3 (o) Violation, or the assisting or abetting violation, of any
4 regulations adopted by the board pursuant to this chapter.

5 (p) Accepting, soliciting, or offering any form of remuneration
6 from or to a cannabis licensee if the veterinarian or the
7 veterinarian's immediate family have a financial interest with the
8 cannabis licensee. For purposes of this subdivision, the following
9 definitions shall apply:

10 (1) "Cannabis licensee" shall have the same meaning as
11 "licensee" in Section 26001.

12 (2) "Financial interest" shall have the same meaning as in
13 Section 650.01.

14 (q) Discussing or recommending cannabis for use with a client
15 while the veterinarian is employed by, or has an agreement with,
16 a cannabis licensee. For purposes of this subdivision, "cannabis
17 licensee" shall have the same meaning as "licensee" in Section
18 26001.

19 (r) Distributing any form of advertising for cannabis in
20 California.

21 (s) Making any statement, claim, or advertisement that the
22 licensee or registrant is a veterinary specialist or board certified
23 unless they are certified by an American Veterinary Medical
24 Association-Recognized Veterinary Specialty Organization or a
25 National Association of Veterinary Technicians in
26 America-Recognized Veterinary Specialty Organization.

27 (t) Exercising control over, interfering with, or attempting to
28 influence the professional judgment of another California-licensed
29 veterinarian or registered veterinary technician through coercion,
30 extortion, inducement, collusion, or intimidation through any
31 means, including, but not limited to, compensation, in order to
32 require the other California-licensed veterinarian or registered
33 veterinary technician to perform veterinary services in a manner
34 inconsistent with current veterinary medical practice in this state.

35 ~~SEC. 30.~~

36 *SEC. 35.* Section 4885 of the Business and Professions Code
37 is amended to read:

38 4885. A plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a
39 plea of nolo contendere made to a charge of a felony or of any
40 offense related to the practice of veterinary medicine is deemed

1 to be a conviction within the meaning of this article. The board
2 may order the license, registration, or permit to be suspended or
3 revoked, or assess a fine as provided in Section 4883 or may
4 decline to issue a license, registration, or permit when the time for
5 appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed
6 on appeal or when an order granting probation is made suspending
7 the imposition of sentence, irrespective of a subsequent order under
8 the provisions of Section 1203.4, 1210.1, or 3063.1 of the Penal
9 Code allowing that person to withdraw their plea of guilty and to
10 enter a plea of not guilty, or setting aside the verdict of guilty, or
11 dismissing the accusation, information, or indictment.

12 ~~SEC. 31.~~

13 *SEC. 36.* Section 4886 of the Business and Professions Code
14 is amended to read:

15 4886. In reinstating a license, registration, or permit that has
16 been revoked or suspended under Section 4883, the board may
17 impose terms and conditions to be followed by the licensee,
18 registrant, or permitholder after the license, registration, or permit
19 has been reinstated. The authority of the board to impose terms
20 and conditions includes, but is not limited to, the following:

21 (a) Requiring the licensee, registrant, or permitholder to obtain
22 additional professional training and to pass an examination upon
23 completion of the training.

24 (b) Requiring the licensee, registrant, or permitholder to pass a
25 verbal, written, practical, or clinical examination, or any
26 combination of those examinations, to determine their present
27 fitness to engage in the practice of veterinary medicine.

28 (c) Requiring the licensee, registrant, or permitholder to submit
29 to a complete diagnostic examination by one or more physicians
30 appointed by the board. If the board requires the licensee, registrant,
31 or permitholder to submit to that examination, the board shall
32 receive and consider any other report of a complete diagnostic
33 examination given by one or more physicians of the licensee's,
34 registrant's, or permitholder's choice.

35 (d) Restricting or limiting the extent, scope, or type of practice
36 of the licensee, registrant, or permitholder.

37 ~~SEC. 32.~~

38 *SEC. 37.* Section 4887 of the Business and Professions Code
39 is amended to read:

1 4887. (a) (1) A person whose license or registration has been
2 revoked or who has been placed on probation may petition the
3 board for reinstatement or modification of penalty including
4 modification or termination of probation after the period as
5 described below in subparagraphs (A) to (C), inclusive, has elapsed
6 from the effective date of the decision ordering the disciplinary
7 action. The petition shall state facts as required by the board. The
8 period shall be as follows:

9 (A) At least three years for reinstatement of a surrendered or
10 revoked license.

11 (B) At least two years for early termination or modification of
12 probation of three years or more.

13 (C) At least one year for modification of a condition or
14 termination of probation of less than three years.

15 (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the board may, upon a
16 showing of good cause, specify in a revocation order, a surrender
17 order, or an order imposing probation of more than three years
18 that the person may petition the board for reinstatement or
19 modification or termination of probation after one year.

20 (b) The petition shall be accompanied by both of the following:

21 (1) At least two verified recommendations from veterinarians
22 licensed by the board who have personal knowledge of the
23 activities of the petitioner since the disciplinary penalty was
24 imposed.

25 (2) A full set of fingerprints for purposes of conducting a
26 criminal history record check.

27 (c) The petition shall be heard by the board. The board may
28 consider all activities of the petitioner since the disciplinary action
29 was taken, the offense for which the petitioner was disciplined,
30 the petitioner's activities since the license or registration was in
31 good standing, and the petitioner's rehabilitation efforts, general
32 reputation for truth, and professional ability. The hearing may be
33 continued from time to time as the board finds necessary.

34 (d) The board reinstating the license or registration or modifying
35 a penalty may impose terms and conditions as it determines
36 necessary. To reinstate a revoked license or registration or to
37 otherwise reduce a penalty or modify probation shall require a
38 vote of five of the members of the board.

39 (e) The petition shall not be considered while the petitioner is
40 under sentence for any criminal offense, including any period

1 during which the petitioner is on court-imposed probation or parole.
2 The board may deny without a hearing or argument any petition
3 filed pursuant to this section within a period of two years from the
4 effective date of the prior decision following a hearing under this
5 section.

6 ~~SEC. 33.~~

7 *SEC. 38.* Section 4901.2 of the Business and Professions Code
8 is amended to read:

9 4901.2. (a) A revoked or surrendered license, registration, or
10 permit is subject to expiration as provided in this article, but it
11 shall not be renewed. If it is reinstated after its expiration, the
12 licensee, registrant, or permitholder, as a condition precedent to
13 reinstatement, shall pay a reinstatement fee in an amount equal to
14 the renewal fee in effect on the last regular renewal date before
15 the date on which it is reinstated plus the delinquency fee, if any,
16 accrued at the time of its revocation.

17 (b) If reinstatement fees, delinquency fees, or reimbursement
18 of costs of prosecution and enforcement, as applicable, are not
19 paid by a petitioner pursuant to Section 4887 within one year of
20 the effective date of a decision reinstating the license, registration,
21 or permit, the petition shall be deemed abandoned, and the license,
22 registration, or permit shall not be reinstated as ordered by the
23 decision.

24 ~~SEC. 34.~~

25 *SEC. 39.* Section 4902 of the Business and Professions Code
26 is repealed.

27 ~~SEC. 35.~~

28 *SEC. 40.* Section 4902 is added to the Business and Professions
29 Code, to read:

30 4902. A license, registration, or permit that is not renewed
31 within five years after its expiration shall be canceled and shall
32 not be renewed, restored, reissued, or reinstated thereafter, but the
33 licensee, registrant, or permitholder may apply for and obtain a
34 new license, registration, or permit if the person applies for a
35 license, registration, or permit as a new applicant and meets all of
36 the requirements for the license, registration, or permit.

37 ~~SEC. 36.~~

38 *SEC. 41.* Section 4905 of the Business and Professions Code
39 is amended to read:

1 4905. (a) For purposes of this section, the following definitions
2 apply:

3 (1) “Small veterinary premises” means a veterinary premises
4 where up to three full-time equivalent veterinarians provide
5 veterinary services.

6 (2) “Medium veterinary premises” means a veterinary premises
7 where four to eight full-time equivalent veterinarians provide
8 veterinary services.

9 (3) “Large veterinary premises” means a veterinary premises
10 where nine or more full-time equivalent veterinarians provide
11 veterinary services.

12 (b) The following fees shall be collected by the board and shall
13 be credited to the California Veterinary Medical Board Contingent
14 Fund:

15 (1) The veterinarian license application fee shall not exceed five
16 hundred forty dollars (\$540).

17 (2) The California Veterinary Medicine Practice Act course fee
18 shall not exceed one hundred fifty-five dollars (\$155).

19 (3) The initial veterinarian license fee shall not exceed eight
20 hundred dollars (\$800).

21 (4) The biennial veterinarian license renewal fee shall not exceed
22 eight hundred dollars (\$800).

23 (5) The university licensee application fee shall not exceed five
24 hundred forty dollars (\$540).

25 (6) The initial university license fee shall not exceed eight
26 hundred dollars (\$800).

27 (7) The biennial university licensee renewal fee shall not exceed
28 eight hundred dollars (\$800).

29 (8) The initial small veterinary premises registration fee shall
30 not exceed eight hundred forty dollars (\$840) annually.

31 (9) The annual small veterinary premises registration renewal
32 fee shall not exceed nine hundred ten dollars (\$910).

33 (10) The initial medium veterinary premises registration fee
34 shall not exceed one thousand one hundred twenty dollars (\$1,120).

35 (11) The annual medium veterinary premises registration
36 renewal fee shall not exceed one thousand one hundred ninety
37 dollars (\$1,190).

38 (12) The initial large veterinary premises registration fee shall
39 not exceed one thousand six hundred seventy-five dollars (\$1,675).

1 (13) The annual large veterinary premises registration renewal
2 fee shall not exceed one thousand seven hundred forty-five dollars
3 (\$1,745).

4 (14) The registered veterinary technician application fee shall
5 not exceed three hundred dollars (\$300).

6 (15) The initial registered veterinary technician registration fee
7 shall not exceed three hundred dollars (\$300).

8 (16) The biennial registered veterinary technician renewal fee
9 shall not exceed three hundred dollars (\$300).

10 (17) The veterinary assistant controlled substance permit
11 application fee shall not exceed three hundred dollars (\$300).

12 (18) The veterinary assistant controlled substance permit fee
13 shall not exceed three hundred dollars (\$300).

14 (19) The biennial veterinary assistant controlled substance
15 permit renewal fee shall not exceed three hundred dollars (\$300).

16 (20) All license, registration, and permit delinquency fees shall
17 be 50 percent of the renewal fee in effect on the date of the renewal,
18 but shall not be less than fifty dollars (\$50) nor more than one
19 hundred fifty dollars (\$150).

20 ~~SEC. 37.~~

21 *SEC. 42.* No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to
22 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because
23 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school
24 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or
25 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty
26 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of
27 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within
28 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California
29 Constitution.