

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 1, 2025  
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~~ *practice* 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.

(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.

(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.

(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, 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.

(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.

(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:
- 7 (1) Four licensed veterinarians, at least one of whom shall
- 8 ~~specialize practice~~ in equine or livestock care, or both.

1 (2) Two registered veterinary technicians.

2 (3) Three public members.

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4 and as of that date is repealed.

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

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

14 4804.5. (a) The board may appoint a person exempt from civil  
15 service who shall be designated as an executive officer and who  
16 shall exercise the powers and perform the duties delegated by the  
17 board and vested in them by this chapter.

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19 and as of that date is repealed.

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

22 4809.7. The board shall establish a regular inspection program  
23 that will provide for random announced or unannounced  
24 inspections of veterinary premises. The board shall make every  
25 reasonable effort to ensure veterinary premises are inspected in a  
26 timely manner.

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

29 4809.8. (a) The board shall establish an advisory committee  
30 to assist, advise, and make recommendations for the  
31 implementation of rules and regulations necessary to ensure proper  
32 administration and enforcement of this chapter and to assist the  
33 board in its examination, licensure, and registration programs. The  
34 committee shall serve only in an advisory capacity to the board  
35 and the objectives, duties, and actions of the committee shall not  
36 be a substitute for or conflict with any of the powers, duties, and  
37 responsibilities of the board. The committee shall be known as the  
38 Veterinary Medicine Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee. The  
39 multidisciplinary committee shall consist of nine members. The  
40 following members of the multidisciplinary committee shall be



1 appointed by the board from lists of nominees solicited by the  
2 board: four licensed veterinarians, two registered veterinary  
3 technicians, and one public member. The committee shall also  
4 include one veterinarian member of the board and one registered  
5 veterinary technician member of the board, both to be appointed  
6 by the board president. Members of the multidisciplinary  
7 committee shall represent a sufficient cross section of the interests  
8 in veterinary medicine in order to address the issues before it, as  
9 determined by the board, including veterinarians, registered  
10 veterinary technicians, and members of the public.

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

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

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

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

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

35 SEC. 5. Section 4826.5 of the Business and Professions Code  
36 is amended to read:

37 4826.5. Notwithstanding any other law, a licensed veterinarian,  
38 registered veterinary technician, or veterinary assistant controlled  
39 substance permitholder under the supervision of a licensed  
40 veterinarian may compound drugs for animal use pursuant to

1 Section 530 of Title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations and in  
2 accordance with regulations promulgated by the board. The  
3 regulations promulgated by the board shall, at a minimum, address  
4 the storage of drugs, the level and type of supervision required for  
5 compounding drugs by a registered veterinary technician or a  
6 veterinary assistant controlled substance permitholder, and the  
7 equipment necessary for the safe compounding of drugs. Any  
8 violation of the regulations adopted by the board pursuant to this  
9 section shall constitute grounds for an enforcement or disciplinary  
10 action.

11 SEC. 6. Section 4826.6 of the Business and Professions Code  
12 is amended to read:

13 4826.6. (a) A veterinarian shall not prescribe, dispense, or  
14 administer a drug, medicine, application, or treatment of whatever  
15 nature for the prevention, cure, or relief of a wound, fracture, bodily  
16 injury, or disease of animals unless a veterinarian-client-patient  
17 relationship exists or as otherwise permitted by law, except when  
18 the animal patient is a wild animal or the owner of the animal  
19 patient is unknown. A veterinarian-client-patient relationship exists  
20 if all of the following conditions are met:

21 (1) The client has authorized the veterinarian to assume  
22 responsibility for medical judgments regarding the health of the  
23 animal patient.

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

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

31 (b) A veterinarian possesses sufficient knowledge of the animal  
32 patient for purposes of paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) if the  
33 veterinarian has recently seen, or is personally acquainted with,  
34 the care of the animal patient by doing any of the following:

35 (1) Examining the animal patient in person.

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 (g) Before delivering veterinary medicine via telehealth, the  
15 veterinarian shall inform the client about the use and potential  
16 limitations of telehealth and obtain consent from the client to use  
17 telehealth, including acknowledgment of all of the following:

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

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

22 (3) The client has been advised how to receive followup care  
23 or assistance in the event of an adverse reaction to the treatment  
24 or in the event of an inability to communicate resulting from  
25 technological or equipment failure.

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

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

31 (2) Have historical knowledge of the animal patient by obtaining  
32 and reviewing the animal patient's relevant medical history, and,  
33 if available, medical records. If medical records exist from a  
34 previous in-person visit and are available to the client, the client  
35 may transmit those records, including any diagnostic data contained  
36 therein, to the veterinarian electronically.

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

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

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

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

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

14 (2) A veterinarian who established the required  
15 veterinarian-client-patient relationship by examining the animal  
16 patient in person or by making medically appropriate and timely  
17 visits to the premises on which the animal patient is kept shall not  
18 prescribe a drug for a duration of time that is longer than one year  
19 from the date that the veterinarian examined the animal patient in  
20 person or visited the premises and prescribed the drug.

21 (3) Except as provided in paragraphs (4) to (8), inclusive, a  
22 veterinarian who practices veterinary medicine via telehealth may  
23 order, prescribe, or make available drugs, as defined in Section  
24 11014 of the Health and Safety Code, in accordance with all  
25 relevant state and federal regulations.

26 (4) A veterinarian who established the required  
27 veterinarian-client-patient relationship using synchronous  
28 audio-video communication shall not prescribe a drug to the animal  
29 patient for use for a period longer than six months from the date  
30 upon which the veterinarian examined the animal patient or  
31 prescribed the drug. The veterinarian shall not issue another  
32 prescription to the animal patient for the same drug unless they  
33 have conducted another examination of the animal patient, either  
34 in person or using telehealth.

35 (5) A veterinarian who established the required  
36 veterinarian-client-patient relationship using synchronous  
37 audio-video communication shall not prescribe an antimicrobial  
38 drug to the animal patient for a period longer than 14 days of  
39 treatment. The veterinarian shall not issue any further antimicrobial  
40 drug prescription, including a refill, to treat the condition of the

1 animal patient unless the veterinarian has conducted an in-person  
2 examination of the animal patient.

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

8 (7) The veterinarian shall notify the client that some prescription  
9 drugs or medications may be available at a pharmacy and, if  
10 requested, the veterinarian shall submit a prescription to a  
11 pharmacy that the client chooses.

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

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

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

23 SEC. 7. Section 4827 of the Business and Professions Code is  
24 amended to read:

25 4827. (a) Nothing in this chapter prohibits any person from:

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

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

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

31 (2) Lay testing of poultry by the whole blood agglutination test.  
32 For purposes of this section, “poultry” means flocks of avian  
33 species maintained for food production, including, but not limited  
34 to, chickens, turkeys, and exotic fowl.

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

39 (4) Administering sodium pentobarbital for euthanasia of sick,  
40 injured, homeless, or surrendered domestic pets or animals without

1 the presence of a veterinarian when the person is administering  
2 the treatment in their capacity as an employee of an animal control  
3 shelter and its agencies or humane society and has received proper  
4 training in the administration of sodium pentobarbital for these  
5 purposes.

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

9 (A) Administering preventative or prophylactic nonprescription  
10 vaccinations to the animal pursuant to protocols written by a  
11 veterinarian licensed in this state for the purposes of preventing  
12 the spread of communicable diseases, without the presence of a  
13 veterinarian when the person has received proper training in the  
14 administration of the nonprescription preventative or prophylactic  
15 vaccinations.

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

26 (C) Administering medications prescribed by a veterinarian  
27 licensed in the state to the animal without the presence of a  
28 veterinarian when the shelter has received a written treatment plan  
29 from the licensed veterinarian for that specific animal and has a  
30 dispensing protocol in place for the tracking of dispensed  
31 prescribed medications and when the person has received proper  
32 training in the administration of prescription medications.

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 4836.2. (a) To obtain a veterinary assistant controlled  
17 substance permit in California, an individual shall satisfy the  
18 following requirements:

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

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

21 (3) Pursuant to Section 144, submit a full set of fingerprints for  
22 the purpose of conducting a criminal history record check and  
23 undergoing a state and federal criminal offender record information  
24 search conducted through the Department of Justice, pursuant to  
25 subdivision (u) of Section 11105 of the Penal Code. The  
26 Department of Justice shall provide a state or federal response to  
27 the board pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (p) of Section  
28 11105 of the Penal Code.

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

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

1 SEC. 10. Section 4837 of the Business and Professions Code  
2 is repealed.

3 SEC. 11. Section 4838 of the Business and Professions Code  
4 is repealed.

5 SEC. 12. Section 4839 of the Business and Professions Code  
6 is amended to read:

7 4839. For purposes of this article, “registered veterinary  
8 technician” means a person who has met the requirements set forth  
9 in Section 4841.5 and is registered by the board.

10 SEC. 13. Section 4841.1 of the Business and Professions Code  
11 is amended to read:

12 4841.1. This article shall not apply to students in a California  
13 veterinary technology program who perform the job tasks for  
14 registered veterinary technicians as part of their educational  
15 experience, including students both on and off campus acting under  
16 the direct supervision of a California licensed veterinarian, except  
17 that those students shall only administer controlled substances and  
18 perform drug compounding under the immediate supervision of a  
19 registered veterinary technician or California licensed veterinarian.  
20 For purposes of this section, “immediate supervision” means  
21 supervision by a person who is within audible and visual range of  
22 both the animal patient and the person being supervised.

23 SEC. 14. Section 4841.4 of the Business and Professions Code  
24 is amended to read:

25 4841.4. (a) The board, by means of examination, shall  
26 determine the professional qualifications of all applicants who  
27 wish to register as veterinary technicians in California. A  
28 registration shall not be issued to anyone who has not demonstrated  
29 their competency by examination.

30 (b) The examination for veterinary technicians shall consist of  
31 a national licensing examination.

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

36 SEC. 15. Section 4841.5 of the Business and Professions Code  
37 is amended to read:

38 4841.5. (a) To obtain registration as a registered veterinary  
39 technician, the applicant shall satisfy the following requirements:



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

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

4 (3) Pursuant to Section 144, submit a full set of fingerprints for  
5 the purpose of conducting a criminal history record check and  
6 undergo a state and federal criminal offender record information  
7 search conducted through the Department of Justice, pursuant to  
8 subdivision (u) of Section 11105 of the Penal Code. The  
9 Department of Justice shall provide a state or federal response to  
10 the board pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (p) of Section  
11 11105 of the Penal Code.

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

13 (A) Graduation from, at minimum, a two-year curriculum in  
14 veterinary technology, in a college or other postsecondary  
15 institution accredited by the American Veterinary Medical  
16 Association (AVMA). In the case of a private postsecondary  
17 institution, the institution shall also be approved by the Bureau for  
18 Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE). Proof of graduation shall  
19 be confirmed through electronic means or direct submission from  
20 the college, other postsecondary institution, or American  
21 Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB).

22 (B) A combination of education and clinical practice experience,  
23 as determined by the board. All education shall be accredited by  
24 the AVMA or the Accrediting Commission for Community and  
25 Junior Colleges, or approved by the BPPE.

26 (C) Graduation from a veterinary college recognized by the  
27 board. Proof of graduation shall be confirmed through electronic  
28 means or direct submission from the veterinary college or the  
29 AAVSB.

30 (D) Education equivalency certified by the AAVSB's Program  
31 for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE)  
32 for Veterinary Technicians. The certificate of education  
33 equivalence shall be confirmed through electronic means or direct  
34 submission from the American Association of Veterinary State  
35 Boards.

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

1 (5) Pass the national licensing examination for veterinary  
2 technicians. If the applicant passed the national licensing  
3 examination over five years from the date of submitting the  
4 veterinary technician registration application, the applicant shall  
5 perform one of the following:

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

7 (B) Submit proof of having practiced clinical veterinary  
8 medicine for a minimum of two years and completed a minimum  
9 of 2,500 hours of clinical practice in another state, Canadian  
10 province, or United States territory within the three years  
11 immediately preceding filing an application for licensure in this  
12 state.

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

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

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

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

28 4842. The board may deny a registered veterinary technician  
29 application if the applicant has done any of the following:

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

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

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

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

39 (e) Committed any act that resulted in a revocation by another  
40 state of the applicant's license, registration, or other procedure by

1 virtue of which one is licensed or allowed to practice veterinary  
2 technology in that state.

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

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

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

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

11 4846. (a) In order to obtain a license to practice veterinary  
12 medicine in California, an individual shall meet the following  
13 requirements:

14 (1) Graduate from a veterinary college recognized by the board  
15 or receive a certificate from the Educational Commission for  
16 Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG) or the Program for the  
17 Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE). Proof  
18 of graduation shall be directly submitted to the board by the  
19 veterinary college or from the American Association of Veterinary  
20 State Boards (AAVSB). Proof of certificate shall be directly  
21 submitted to the board by ECFVG or PAVE.

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

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

24 (4) As directed by the board pursuant to Section 144, submit a  
25 full set of fingerprints for the purpose of conducting a criminal  
26 history record check and undergo a state and federal criminal  
27 offender record information search conducted through the  
28 Department of Justice, pursuant to subdivision (u) of Section 11105  
29 of the Penal Code. The Department of Justice shall provide a state  
30 or federal response to the board pursuant to paragraph (1) of  
31 subdivision (p) of Section 11105 of the Penal Code.

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

33 (A) A licensing examination that is administered on a national  
34 basis. If the applicant passed the national licensing examination  
35 over five years from the date of submitting the California  
36 veterinarian license application, the applicant shall satisfy one of  
37 the following:

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

39 (ii) Submit proof of having practiced clinical veterinary medicine  
40 for a minimum of two years and completed a minimum of 2,500

1 hours of clinical practice in another state, Canadian province, or  
2 United States territory within the three years immediately preceding  
3 filing an application for licensure in this state.

4 (iii) Complete the minimum continuing education requirements  
5 of Section 4858.1 for the current and preceding year.

6 (B) A veterinary law examination administered by the board  
7 concerning the statutes and regulations of this chapter. The  
8 examination may be administered by regular mail, email, or by  
9 other electronic means. The applicant shall certify that the applicant  
10 personally completed the examination. Any false statement is a  
11 violation subject to Section 4831. Every applicant who obtains a  
12 score of at least 80 percent on the veterinary law examination shall  
13 be deemed to have passed. University of California and Western  
14 University of Health Sciences veterinary medical students who  
15 have successfully completed a board-approved course on veterinary  
16 law and ethics covering this chapter shall be exempt from this  
17 subparagraph.

18 (b) The applicant shall disclose each state, Canadian province,  
19 or United States territory in which the applicant currently holds  
20 or has ever held a license to practice veterinary medicine. License  
21 verification, including any disciplinary or enforcement history,  
22 shall be confirmed through electronic means or direct submission  
23 from each state, Canadian province, or United States territory in  
24 which the applicant has identified the applicant holds or has ever  
25 held a license to practice veterinary medicine.

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

28 SEC. 21. Section 4846.5 of the Business and Professions Code  
29 is repealed.

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

32 4848.1. (a) A veterinarian engaged in the practice of veterinary  
33 medicine, as defined in Section 4826, employed by the University  
34 of California and engaged in the performance of duties in  
35 connection with the School of Veterinary Medicine or employed  
36 by the Western University of Health Sciences and engaged in the  
37 performance of duties in connection with the College of Veterinary  
38 Medicine shall be issued a university license pursuant to this  
39 section or hold a license to practice veterinary medicine in this  
40 state.

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

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

6 (2) The applicant passes an examination concerning the statutes  
7 and regulations of this chapter, administered by the board, pursuant  
8 to subparagraph (B) of paragraph (5) of subdivision (a) of Section  
9 4846.

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

13 (c) A university license:

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

17 (2) Shall be subject to the license renewal provisions in Section  
18 4900 and the payment of the renewal fee pursuant to subdivision  
19 (g) of Section 4905.

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

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

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

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

29 4855. (a) A veterinarian subject to the provisions of this  
30 chapter shall, as required by regulation of the board, keep a written  
31 record of all animals receiving veterinary services, and provide a  
32 copy of that record to the client or the client's authorized agent  
33 within five days of receiving the client's or the client's authorized  
34 agent's verbal or written request.

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

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

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

6 (A) The receiving veterinarian or veterinary premises.

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

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

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

14 SEC. 24. Section 4855.1 is added to the Business and  
15 Professions Code, to read:

16 4855.1. Within 30 days of receiving a written or verbal request  
17 by the client or their authorized agent for a record of client  
18 payments, the licensee manager of the veterinary premises shall  
19 provide a record of client payments made to the veterinary premises  
20 related to services and treatment provided. A record of client  
21 payments made to the veterinary premises related to services and  
22 treatments provided shall be maintained for a minimum of three  
23 years after the animal's last visits.

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

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

37 (b) Equipment and drugs on the premises, or any other place,  
38 where veterinary medicine, veterinary dentistry, veterinary surgery,  
39 or the various branches thereof is being practiced, or otherwise in  
40 the possession of a veterinarian for purposes of that practice, shall

1 be open to inspection by the board, or its authorized representatives,  
2 during an inspection as part of a regular inspection program by  
3 the board, or during an investigation initiated in response to a  
4 complaint that a licensee has violated any law or regulation that  
5 constitutes grounds for disciplinary action by the board.

6 (c) The licensee manager for the registered veterinary premises  
7 shall make any records related to the services a veterinarian has  
8 provided on behalf of the registered veterinary premises available  
9 for inspection by that veterinarian.

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

13  
14 Article 3.1. Continuing Education  
15

16 4858. (a) Except for the first renewal period, all holders of  
17 veterinarian licenses and veterinary technician registrations issued  
18 under the provisions of this chapter shall obtain continuing  
19 education relevant to developments in the practice of veterinary  
20 medicine.

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

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

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

37 (e) Notwithstanding Section 4858.1, the board, in its discretion,  
38 may exempt from the continuing education requirement an  
39 applicant who for reasons of health, military service, or undue

1 hardship cannot meet those requirements. Applications for waivers  
2 shall be submitted on a form provided by the board.

3 4858.1. (a) The board shall issue renewed veterinarian licenses  
4 only to those applicants who have completed a minimum of 36  
5 hours of continuing education in the preceding two years.

6 (b) Continuing education hours for veterinarians shall be earned  
7 as follows:

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

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

13 (B) State veterinary medical associations or their affiliated  
14 associations or educational organizations.

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

16 (D) Providers accredited, approved, or recognized by the  
17 Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education  
18 (ACCME), American Medical Association (AMA), American  
19 Dental Association Continuing Education Recognition Program  
20 (ADA CERP), or American Association of Veterinary State Boards  
21 (AAVSB).

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

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

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

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

35 (ii) Proof of completion of continuing education pursuant to  
36 this subparagraph shall be documented by the director or  
37 administrator of the public animal control agency or shelter, society  
38 for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society  
39 shelter, or rescue group, with a copy provided to the veterinarian,  
40 and include the date of performing the spaying and neutering



1 services, the name, address, and telephone number of the entity  
2 for which the spaying and neutering services were provided, and  
3 the name, address, and veterinary premises registration where the  
4 spaying and neutering services were performed.

5 (3) A veterinarian who teaches a course specified in  
6 subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, of paragraph (1) of subdivision  
7 (b) may receive continuing education credit for the course one  
8 time during a renewal period.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

33 (2) For purposes of this subdivision, “medically important  
34 antimicrobial drug” means an antimicrobial drug listed in Appendix  
35 A of the federal Food and Drug Administration’s Guidance for  
36 Industry #152, including critically important, highly important,  
37 and important antimicrobial drugs, as that appendix may be  
38 amended.

39 4858.2. (a) The board shall issue renewed veterinary technician  
40 registrations only to those applicants who have completed a

1 minimum of 20 hours of continuing education in the preceding  
2 two years.

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

5 (1) Attending courses provided by those specified in  
6 subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, of paragraph (1) of subdivision  
7 (b) of Section 4858.1 or sponsored or cosponsored by one of the  
8 following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 4858.3. (a) Upon a course attendee's completion of a  
22 continuing education course sponsored by a provider pursuant to  
23 paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section 4858.1 or paragraph  
24 (1) of subdivision (b) of Section 4858.2, as applicable, the course  
25 provider shall issue to the course attendee a certificate of course  
26 completion containing the following:

27 (1) The name of the attendee.

28 (2) The course title.

29 (3) The provider name and address.

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

33 (5) The date of the course.

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 (1) Syllabi or course outlines for each course.

11 (2) The time and location of each course.

12 (3) Course instructors' curriculum vitae or resumes.

13 (4) Registration rosters with the names and addresses of  
14 individuals who attended the courses.

15 (5) A sample of the record of course completion form provided  
16 to attendees for verifying attendance.

17 (6) A sample of the evaluation form completed by attendees.

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

20 4875. In addition to its authority to suspend or revoke a license,  
21 registration, or permit, the board shall have the authority to assess  
22 a fine not in excess of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) against a  
23 licensee, registrant, or permitholder for any of the causes specified  
24 in Section 4883. A fine may be assessed in lieu of or in addition  
25 to a suspension or revocation. Notwithstanding Section 4903, all  
26 fines collected pursuant to this section shall be deposited to the  
27 credit of the California Veterinary Medical Board Contingent Fund.

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

30 4875.1. (a) In order to ensure that its resources are maximized  
31 for the protection of the public, the board shall prioritize its  
32 investigative and prosecutorial resources to ensure that individuals  
33 representing the greatest threat of harm are identified and  
34 disciplined expeditiously. Cases involving any of the following  
35 allegations shall be handled on a priority basis, as follows, with  
36 the highest priority being given to cases in paragraph (1):

37 (1) Negligence or incompetence that involves death or serious  
38 bodily injury to an animal patient, such that the individual  
39 represents a danger to the public.

40 (2) Cruelty to animals.

1 (3) A conviction or convictions for a criminal charge or charges  
2 or being subject to a felony criminal proceeding without  
3 consideration of the outcome of the proceeding.

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

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

8 (6) Self-prescribing of any dangerous drug, as defined in Section  
9 4022, or any controlled substance, as defined in Section 4021.

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

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

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

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

27 SEC. 29. Section 4875.2 of the Business and Professions Code  
28 is amended to read:

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

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

1 4875.7. (a) Notwithstanding paragraph (3) of subdivision (b)  
2 of Section 125.9 and Section 148, the executive officer may issue  
3 a citation to a person or entity, and that person or entity shall be  
4 subject to an administrative fine of no less than two thousand  
5 dollars (\$2,000) and not exceeding ten thousand dollars (\$10,000)  
6 for each violation of practicing or offering to practice veterinary  
7 medicine without a license, registration, or permit issued by the  
8 board pursuant to this chapter. The maximum fine for unlicensed  
9 activity is separate and not inclusive of fines for other violations.

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

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

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

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

18 4882. (a) The proceedings under this article shall be conducted  
19 in accordance with Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500)  
20 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, and the  
21 board shall have the powers granted therein.

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

37 SEC. 34. Section 4883 of the Business and Professions Code  
38 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. 35. Section 4885 of the Business and Professions Code  
36 is amended to read:

37 4885. A plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a  
38 plea of nolo contendere made to a charge of a felony or of any  
39 offense related to the practice of veterinary medicine is deemed  
40 to be a conviction within the meaning of this article. The board

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

11 SEC. 36. Section 4886 of the Business and Professions Code  
12 is amended to read:

13 4886. In reinstating a license, registration, or permit that has  
14 been revoked or suspended under Section 4883, the board may  
15 impose terms and conditions to be followed by the licensee,  
16 registrant, or permitholder after the license, registration, or permit  
17 has been reinstated. The authority of the board to impose terms  
18 and conditions includes, but is not limited to, the following:

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

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

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

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

35 SEC. 37. Section 4887 of the Business and Professions Code  
36 is amended to read:

37 4887. (a) (1) A person whose license or registration has been  
38 revoked or who has been placed on probation may petition the  
39 board for reinstatement or modification of penalty including  
40 modification or termination of probation after the period as

1 described below in subparagraphs (A) to (C), inclusive, has elapsed  
2 from the effective date of the decision ordering the disciplinary  
3 action. The petition shall state facts as required by the board. The  
4 period shall be as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

17 (1) At least two verified recommendations from veterinarians  
18 licensed by the board who have personal knowledge of the  
19 activities of the petitioner since the disciplinary penalty was  
20 imposed.

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

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

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

35 (e) The petition shall not be considered while the petitioner is  
36 under sentence for any criminal offense, including any period  
37 during which the petitioner is on court-imposed probation or parole.  
38 The board may deny without a hearing or argument any petition  
39 filed pursuant to this section within a period of two years from the

1 effective date of the prior decision following a hearing under this  
2 section.

3 SEC. 38. Section 4901.2 of the Business and Professions Code  
4 is amended to read:

5 4901.2. (a) A revoked or surrendered license, registration, or  
6 permit is subject to expiration as provided in this article, but it  
7 shall not be renewed. If it is reinstated after its expiration, the  
8 licensee, registrant, or permitholder, as a condition precedent to  
9 reinstatement, shall pay a reinstatement fee in an amount equal to  
10 the renewal fee in effect on the last regular renewal date before  
11 the date on which it is reinstated plus the delinquency fee, if any,  
12 accrued at the time of its revocation.

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

20 SEC. 39. Section 4902 of the Business and Professions Code  
21 is repealed.

22 SEC. 40. Section 4902 is added to the Business and Professions  
23 Code, to read:

24 4902. A license, registration, or permit that is not renewed  
25 within five years after its expiration shall be canceled and shall  
26 not be renewed, restored, reissued, or reinstated thereafter, but the  
27 licensee, registrant, or permitholder may apply for and obtain a  
28 new license, registration, or permit if the person applies for a  
29 license, registration, or permit as a new applicant and meets all of  
30 the requirements for the license, registration, or permit.

31 SEC. 41. Section 4905 of the Business and Professions Code  
32 is amended to read:

33 4905. (a) For purposes of this section, the following definitions  
34 apply:

35 (1) "Small veterinary premises" means a veterinary premises  
36 where up to three full-time equivalent veterinarians provide  
37 veterinary services.

38 (2) "Medium veterinary premises" means a veterinary premises  
39 where four to eight full-time equivalent veterinarians provide  
40 veterinary services.

1 (3) "Large veterinary premises" means a veterinary premises  
2 where nine or more full-time equivalent veterinarians provide  
3 veterinary services.

4 (b) The following fees shall be collected by the board and shall  
5 be credited to the California Veterinary Medical Board Contingent  
6 Fund:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

32 (13) The annual large veterinary premises registration renewal  
33 fee shall not exceed one thousand seven hundred forty-five dollars  
34 (\$1,745).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 SEC. 42. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to  
12 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because  
13 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school  
14 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or  
15 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty  
16 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of  
17 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within  
18 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California  
19 Constitution.