

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 26-0173.01 Christopher McMichael x4775

**HOUSE BILL 26-1198**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**McCormick,**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**(None),**

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**House Committees**  
Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101     **CONCERNING INCREASING ACCESS TO VETERINARY CARE, AND, IN**  
102         **CONNECTION THEREWITH, ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM TO**  
103         **EXPEDITE THE PROCESS OF LICENSING A VETERINARIAN BY**  
104         **ENDORSEMENT, A PROGRAM TO EXPEDITE THE PROCESS OF**  
105         **REGISTERING AS A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN BY ENDORSEMENT,**  
106         **AND A PROGRAM FOR THE DONATION OF VETERINARY DRUGS.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

The bill requires the state board of veterinary medicine (board) to

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.  
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

expedite the process by which an individual who has a license to practice veterinary medicine in another state may be licensed by endorsement to practice veterinary medicine in Colorado. The bill directs the board to develop a list of states that have equivalent or substantially equivalent licensing requirements as Colorado and a list of states that have less stringent licensing requirements than Colorado. Where an individual is licensed will determine the process by which the individual may be licensed by endorsement in this state.

The bill also requires the board to expedite the process by which an individual who is registered as a veterinary technician in another state may obtain a registration by endorsement in Colorado. The board is required to develop a list of states that have equivalent or substantially equivalent registration requirements as Colorado and a list of states that have less stringent registration requirements than Colorado. Where an individual is registered will determine the process by which the individual may be registered by endorsement in this state. The board must also require a veterinary technician from another state to receive approval from a veterinary technician credentialing organization in Colorado before applying for a registration by endorsement.

The bill also establishes a veterinary prescription drug donation program. An owner of an animal may donate unused veterinary drugs that have been prescribed to the owner to a licensed veterinarian or an animal shelter. The licensed veterinarian or animal shelter may use any drugs accepted through donation if the veterinarian meets certain conditions.

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1       *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-106, **add**

3           (5)(k) as follows:

4           **12-315-106. Board of veterinary medicine - creation - powers**  
5           **- rules.**

6           (5) The board has the power to:

7           (k) ADOPT RULES NECESSARY TO EXPEDITE THE PROCESS BY WHICH  
8           AN INDIVIDUAL MAY BE LICENSED TO PRACTICE VETERINARY MEDICINE BY  
9           ENDORSEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-109.

10           **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 12-315-109  
11           as follows:

1                   **12-315-109. License by endorsement - rules.**

2                   (1) The board may issue a license by endorsement to engage in the  
3                   practice of veterinary medicine in this state to an applicant who satisfies  
4                   the requirements of the occupational credential portability program AND  
5                   THE REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD PURSUANT TO  
6                   SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION.

7                   (2) IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 12-20-202 (3)(d), THE BOARD  
8                   SHALL ADOPT RULES NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES TO EXPEDITE  
9                   THE PROCESS BY WHICH AN INDIVIDUAL MAY BE LICENSED BY  
10                  ENDORSEMENT TO PRACTICE VETERINARY MEDICINE IN THIS STATE,  
11                  INCLUDING:

12                  (a) DEVELOPING A LIST OF STATES THAT HAVE EQUIVALENT OR  
13                  SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE  
14                  PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS  
15                  STATE;

16                  (b) EXPEDITING THE PROCESS BY WHICH AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS  
17                  LICENSED TO PRACTICE VETERINARY MEDICINE IN A STATE THAT IS ON THE  
18                  LIST DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION MAY  
19                  APPLY FOR AND RECEIVE A LICENSE TO PRACTICE VETERINARY MEDICINE  
20                  IN THIS STATE;

21                  (c) DEVELOPING A LIST OF STATES THAT HAVE LESS STRINGENT OR  
22                  DIFFERENT LICENSING REQUIREMENTS THAN THIS STATE FOR THE PRACTICE  
23                  OF VETERINARY MEDICINE;

24                  (d) ESTABLISHING A PROCESS FOR AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS LICENSED  
25                  TO PRACTICE VETERINARY MEDICINE IN A STATE THAT IS ON THE LIST  
26                  DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(c) OF THIS SECTION TO  
27                  DEMONSTRATE THAT THEY MEET THE EDUCATION, EXPERIENCE, AND

1 OTHER QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED TO BE LICENSED TO PRACTICE  
2 VETERINARY MEDICINE IN THIS STATE; AND

3 (e) ELIMINATING THE DUPLICATION OF DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED  
4 BY AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS APPLYING FOR A LICENSE BY ENDORSEMENT IF  
5 THE INDIVIDUAL WAS ALREADY REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THE SAME TYPE OF  
6 DOCUMENTATION WHEN THE INDIVIDUAL WAS LICENSED TO PRACTICE  
7 VETERINARY MEDICINE IN ANOTHER STATE.

8 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-201, **amend**  
9 (1)(a)(I) as follows:

10 **12-315-201. Additional board duties - rules - repeal.**

11 (1) In addition to any other duties specified in this part 2 and  
12 sections 12-315-105.5 and 12-315-106, the board shall:

13 (a) Approve a nationally recognized veterinary technician  
14 credentialing organization for purposes of credentialing veterinary  
15 technicians in this state. The credentialing organization approved by the  
16 board must:

17 (I) Require the completion of an ~~American Veterinary Medical~~  
18 ~~Association-accredited~~ ACCREDITED program for veterinary technicians;

19 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 12-315-205  
20 as follows:

21 **12-315-205. Veterinary technicians - registration by  
22 endorsement - rules.**

23 (1) The board may issue a registration by endorsement to a  
24 veterinary technician applicant who satisfies the requirements of the  
25 occupational credential portability program AND THE REQUIREMENTS  
26 ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS  
27 SECTION.

5 (a) DEVELOPING A LIST OF STATES THAT HAVE EQUIVALENT OR  
6 SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR  
7 VETERINARY TECHNICIANS AS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS STATE;

12 (c) DEVELOPING A LIST OF STATES THAT HAVE LESS STRINGENT OR  
13 DIFFERENT REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS THAN THIS STATE FOR  
14 VETERINARY TECHNICIANS;

21 (e) ELIMINATING THE DUPLICATION OF DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED  
22 BY AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS APPLYING FOR A REGISTRATION BY  
23 ENDORSEMENT IF THE INDIVIDUAL WAS ALREADY REQUIRED TO PROVIDE  
24 THE SAME TYPE OF DOCUMENTATION WHEN THE INDIVIDUAL WAS  
25 REGISTERED AS A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN IN ANOTHER STATE; AND

26 (f) ESTABLISHING A PROCESS THAT REQUIRES AN INDIVIDUAL WHO  
27 IS REGISTERED AS A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN IN ANOTHER STATE TO

1 RECEIVE APPROVAL FROM A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN CREDENTIALING  
2 ORGANIZATION IN THIS STATE AS A DEMONSTRATION THAT THE  
3 INDIVIDUAL MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS TO BE CREDENTIALED AS A  
4 VETERINARY TECHNICIAN IN THIS STATE BEFORE THE INDIVIDUAL APPLIES  
5 FOR A REGISTRATION BY ENDORSEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-20-202  
6 (3).

7 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 12-315-127 as  
8 follows:

9 **12-315-127. Veterinary drug donation program - rules.**

10 (1) AN OWNER OF AN ANIMAL MAY DONATE A PRESCRIPTION DRUG  
11 THAT IS DISPENSED FOR BUT NOT USED BY THE ANIMAL TO A LICENSED  
12 VETERINARIAN OR ANIMAL SHELTER IN WHICH VETERINARY MEDICINE IS  
13 PRACTICED IF THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN OR ANIMAL SHELTER ACCEPTS  
14 THE DRUG.

15 (2) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (4)(b) OF THIS SECTION,  
16 A LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY REISSUE A DONATED DRUG ACCEPTED  
17 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION TO FILL OTHER PRESCRIPTIONS DISPENSED BY  
18 THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN FREE OF CHARGE FOR AN ANIMAL IF:

19 (a) THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN DETERMINES THAT THE OWNER  
20 OF THE ANIMAL IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE REISSUANCE OF THE DRUG;

21 (b) THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN DETERMINES THAT THE DRUG IS  
22 SUITABLE FOR REISSUANCE;

23 (c) THE DRUG WAS ORIGINALLY DISPENSED BY A LICENSED  
24 VETERINARIAN OR A LICENSED PHARMACIST;

25 (d) THE DRUG IS NOT A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE;

26 (e) THE DRUG IS NOT A COMPOUNDED DRUG;

27 (f) THE DRUG DOES NOT REQUIRE REFRIGERATION BEFORE

1       OPENING;

2           (g) THE DRUG IS NOT IN A LIQUID FORM OR, IF IN LIQUID FORM, THE  
3       DRUG IS PACKAGED IN AN UNOPENED VIAL OR A SINGLE-DOSE UNOPENED  
4       AMPULE;

5           (h) THE DRUG IS NOT EXPIRED;

6           (i) THE PACKAGING OR BOTTLE CONTAINS THE EXPIRATION DATE  
7       OF THE DRUG; AND

8           (j) THE NAME OF THE ANIMAL, THE NAME OF THE OWNER OF THE  
9       ANIMAL FOR WHICH THE DRUG WAS ORIGINALLY DISPENSED, THE  
10      PRESCRIPTION NUMBER, AND ANY OTHER IDENTIFYING MARKS OR  
11      INFORMATION ARE OBLITERATED FROM THE PACKAGING OR BOTTLE  
12      BEFORE THE DRUG IS REISSUED.

13           (3) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN SHALL:

14           (a) IDENTIFY AND MAINTAIN SEPARATELY FROM OTHER STOCK A  
15       DONATED DRUG ACCEPTED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION; AND

16           (b) MAKE A RECORD OF EACH DONATED DRUG ACCEPTED  
17       PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION THAT INCLUDES, AT MINIMUM:

18           (I) THE DATE ON WHICH THE DRUG WAS DONATED;

19           (II) THE NAME OF THE PERSON THAT DONATED THE DRUG;

20           (III) THE ANIMAL FOR WHICH THE DRUG WAS ORIGINALLY  
21       PRESCRIBED AND THE NAME OF THE OWNER OF THE ANIMAL; AND

22           (IV) THE EXPIRATION DATE OF THE DRUG.

23           (4) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN SHALL NOT:

24           (a) SELL OR RESELL A DONATED DRUG ACCEPTED PURSUANT TO  
25       THIS SECTION; OR

26           (b) DISPENSE A DONATED DRUG ACCEPTED PURSUANT TO THIS  
27       SECTION TO FILL OTHER PRESCRIPTIONS DISPENSED BY THE LICENSED

1 VETERINARIAN FOR AN ANIMAL IF THE ANIMAL IS RAISED TO PRODUCE  
2 FOOD FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION OR THE ANIMAL IS ORDINARILY  
3 CONSUMED BY ANIMALS THAT ARE RAISED TO PRODUCE FOOD FOR HUMAN  
4 CONSUMPTION.

5 (5) (a) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN, ANIMAL SHELTER IN WHICH  
6 VETERINARY MEDICINE IS PRACTICED, OR OTHER PERSON THAT EXERCISES  
7 REASONABLE CARE IN DONATING OR ACCEPTING, DISTRIBUTING, OR  
8 DISPENSING A DONATED DRUG IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION AND  
9 ANY RULES ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION IS NOT SUBJECT TO CIVIL  
10 OR CRIMINAL LIABILITY OR DISCIPLINARY ACTION BY A PROFESSIONAL  
11 LICENSING BOARD FOR ANY LOSS, INJURY, OR DEATH THAT RESULTS FROM  
12 THE DONATION OF A DRUG OR THE ACCEPTANCE, DISTRIBUTION, OR  
13 DISPENSATION OF THE DONATED DRUG.

14 (b) A MANUFACTURER OF A DRUG IS NOT SUBJECT TO CIVIL OR  
15 CRIMINAL LIABILITY FOR ANY CLAIM OR INJURY ARISING FROM THE  
16 DONATION OF THE DRUG OR ACCEPTANCE, DISTRIBUTION, OR  
17 DISPENSATION OF THE DONATED DRUG PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION AND  
18 ANY RULES ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

19 (6) THE BOARD MAY ADOPT RULES AS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT  
20 THIS SECTION, INCLUDING:

21 (a) REQUIREMENTS FOR ISSUING DONATED DRUGS PURSUANT TO  
22 THIS SECTION, INCLUDING REQUIREMENTS THAT PROVIDE APPROPRIATE  
23 SAFEGUARDS FOR ENSURING THAT THE DRUGS ARE NOT COMPROMISED OR  
24 ILLEGALLY DIVERTED BEFORE BEING REISSUED;

25 (b) REQUIREMENTS FOR A LICENSED VETERINARIAN'S OR ANIMAL  
26 SHELTER'S ACCEPTANCE OF DONATED DRUGS; AND

27 (c) REQUIREMENTS FOR MAINTAINING RECORDS RELATED TO THE

1       ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF DONATED DRUGS TO FILL OTHER PRESCRIPTIONS  
2       PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

3           **SECTION 6. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
4       takes effect January 1, 2027; except that, if a referendum petition is filed  
5       pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this  
6       act or an item, section, or part of this act within the ninety-day period  
7       after final adjournment of the general assembly, then the act, item,  
8       section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the  
9       general election to be held in November 2026 and, in such case, will take  
10      effect January 1, 2027, or on the date of the official declaration of the  
11      vote thereon by the governor, whichever is later.