

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

REREVISED

*This Version Includes All Amendments
Adopted in the Second House*

LLS NO. 24-0357.01 Christopher McMichael x4775

HOUSE BILL 24-1047

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SENATE
3rd Reading Unamended
February 26, 2024

SENATE
2nd Reading Unamended
February 23, 2024

HOUSE
3rd Reading Unamended
February 12, 2024

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
February 9, 2024

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR VETERINARY TECHNICIANS,**
102 **AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, DIRECTING THE STATE BOARD**
103 **OF VETERINARY MEDICINE TO PROMULGATE RULES REGARDING**
104 **THE SUPERVISION OF AND THE DELEGATION OF CERTAIN**
105 **TASKS TO VETERINARY TECHNICIANS, VETERINARY TECHNICIAN**
106 **SPECIALISTS, OR OTHER PERSONNEL BY A LICENSED**
107 **VETERINARIAN AND ESTABLISHING A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN**
108 **SPECIALIST DESIGNATION.**

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

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.

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Water Resources and Agriculture Review Committee. The board of veterinary medicine (board) is required to promulgate rules establishing certain veterinary medicine tasks that a licensed veterinarian may delegate to veterinary technicians and veterinary technician specialists and the recommended level of supervision for the tasks.

A licensed veterinarian may delegate tasks pursuant to the board's rules after first establishing a veterinarian-client-patient relationship with an animal or group of animals and the owner of the animal or animals. The licensed veterinarian is required to provide an appropriate level of supervision of the veterinary technician or veterinary technician specialist in accordance with applicable rules of the board. If there are not applicable rules related to the specific veterinary task that is being delegated, the veterinarian may delegate the task based on the assessment of the veterinary medical care being provided, the experience, education, and training of the person providing the care, and in compliance with all state and federal laws.

Beginning on January 1, 2026, the bill authorizes a veterinary technician to receive a veterinary technician specialist designation as part of the veterinary technician's registration, grants title protection for veterinary technician specialists, and prohibits the unauthorized practice as a veterinary technician specialist by a person who does not have a veterinary technician specialist designation.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 finds and declares that:

4 (a) In Colorado, there is an increasing need for veterinary care,
5 both for companion animals and for livestock or production animals;

6 (b) Licensed veterinarians in Colorado are stretched thin from the
7 increased demands for veterinary care, especially in rural areas of the
8 state where clients and patients may have more limited access to
9 veterinary care;

10 (c) Many veterinary practices in Colorado employ veterinary
11 technicians or veterinary technician specialists, who are staff that are

1 educated and trained to perform various veterinary services and are often
2 underutilized by supervising veterinarians;

3 (d) Clear guidelines are needed for veterinarians regarding the
4 veterinary services that may be delegated to veterinary technicians and
5 veterinary technician specialists to efficiently and effectively utilize the
6 education, training, and expertise of all veterinary staff and ensure that
7 Colorado's animals have adequate access to veterinary care; and

8 (e) Expanding the scope of practice for veterinary technicians and
9 veterinary technician specialists and authorizing licensed veterinarians to
10 delegate specific tasks to veterinary technicians and veterinary technician
11 specialists will allow these veterinary professionals to contribute more to
12 the delivery of veterinary care.

13 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-104, **amend**
14 (6), (10), (10.5), (13), (21), and (21.5); and **add** (5.5), (16.3), (16.5), and
15 (26) as follows:

16 **12-315-104. Definitions.** As used in this article 315, unless the
17 context otherwise requires:

18 (5.5) "DELEGATION" OR "DELEGATE" MEANS A LICENSED
19 VETERINARIAN'S ACT OF ENTRUSTING TO AN INDIVIDUAL THE AUTHORITY
20 TO PERFORM A █ TASK UNDER THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF SUPERVISION
21 BY THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN AFTER THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN HAS
22 DETERMINED THAT THE INDIVIDUAL IS COMPETENT TO PERFORM THE █
23 TASK.

24 (6) "Direct supervision" means the supervising licensed
25 veterinarian is readily available on the premises where the patient is being
26 treated AND IS ABLE TO SUPERVISE THE █ TASKS THAT HAVE BEEN
27 DELEGATED TO AN INDIVIDUAL.

1 (10) "Immediate supervision" means the supervising licensed
2 veterinarian ~~and any person being supervised are in direct contact with the~~
3 ~~patient~~ IS PHYSICALLY IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA ON THE PREMISES AND
4 WITHIN AUDIBLE OR VISUAL RANGE OF THE PATIENT AND THE INDIVIDUAL
5 PERFORMING THE [REDACTED] TASKS THAT HAVE BEEN DELEGATED BY THE
6 LICENSED VETERINARIAN.

7 (10.5) "Indirect supervision" means ~~supervision in which the~~
8 supervising licensed veterinarian ~~directs or supervises the authorized~~
9 ~~delegated~~ NEED NOT BE ON THE VETERINARY PREMISES BUT:

10 (a) ~~treatment or collection of diagnostic information of a patient~~
11 ~~at veterinary premises without being on the premises but being~~ PROVIDES
12 EITHER WRITTEN OR VERBAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE TASKS THAT HAVE
13 BEEN DELEGATED TO AN INDIVIDUAL; AND

14 (b) Is readily available for communication.

15 (13) "Patient" means ~~an~~ ANY animal OR GROUP OF ANIMALS that
16 is examined or treated by a licensed veterinarian and includes herds,
17 flocks, litters, and other groups of animals.

18 (16.3) "SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN" MEANS A
19 LICENSED VETERINARIAN IN THE STATE WHO DELEGATES AND ASSUMES
20 RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE VETERINARY CARE PROVIDED TO A PATIENT BY
21 AN INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYED AT THE SAME PHYSICAL PRACTICE LOCATION
22 AND WORKING OUT OF THE SAME PHYSICAL PREMISES AS THE LICENSED
23 VETERINARIAN AND WORKING UNDER AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF
24 SUPERVISION BY THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN.

25 (16.5) (a) "SUPERVISION" MEANS A LICENSED VETERINARIAN'S
26 OVERSIGHT AND MONITORING OF ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL'S ASSISTANCE IN
27 THE TREATMENT OF ANIMALS AS PART OF THE VETERINARIAN'S PRACTICE

1 OF VETERINARY MEDICINE.

2 (b) "SUPERVISION" INCLUDES:

3 (I) DIRECT SUPERVISION;

4 (II) IMMEDIATE SUPERVISION; AND

5 (III) INDIRECT SUPERVISION.

6 (21) "Veterinary premises" or "premises" means a veterinary
7 office, hospital, clinic, BUILDING, MOBILE UNIT, FACILITY, or ~~temporary~~
8 OTHER location where veterinary ~~medicine is being practiced~~ MEDICAL
9 SERVICES ARE PROVIDED by or under the direction and supervision of a
10 licensed veterinarian.

11 (21.5) "Veterinary professional" means a veterinarian licensed
12 pursuant to this part 1 ~~and~~ OR a veterinary technician OR VETERINARY
13 TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST registered pursuant to part 2 of this article 315.

14

15 (26) "VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST" MEANS A VETERINARY
16 TECHNICIAN WHO HAS BEEN AWARDED DESIGNATION FROM:

17 (a) AN ACADEMY RECOGNIZED BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
18 VETERINARY TECHNICIANS IN AMERICA'S COMMITTEE OF VETERINARY
19 TECHNICIAN SPECIALITIES OR ITS SUCCESSOR ORGANIZATION, WHICH
20 ORGANIZATION IS A RECOGNIZED VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST
21 ORGANIZATION; OR

22 (b) A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED VETERINARY TECHNICIAN
23 SPECIALIST ORGANIZATION APPROVED BY THE BOARD PURSUANT TO
24 SECTION 12-315-201 (1)(c).

25 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-105, **amend**
26 (1) introductory portion, (1)(j), and (2)(a); and **add** (1)(r), (1)(s), and
27 (1)(t) as follows:

1 **12-315-105. License requirements and exceptions - definitions**

2 **- rules.** (1) ~~A person~~ AN INDIVIDUAL shall not practice veterinary
3 medicine in this state if the ~~person~~ INDIVIDUAL is not a licensed
4 veterinarian. ~~A person~~ AN INDIVIDUAL shall not practice artificial
5 insemination or ova transplantation of cattle or other animal species in
6 this state except in accordance with RULES ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO
7 section 12-315-106 (5)(c). AN INDIVIDUAL NOT LICENSED AS A
8 VETERINARIAN PURSUANT TO THIS PART 1 SHALL NOT DIAGNOSE, ISSUE
9 PROGNOSSES FOR, PRESCRIBE FOR, OR PERFORM SURGERY ON AN
10 ANIMAL. This article 315 does not prohibit:

11 (j) Any ~~person~~ INDIVIDUAL from performing ~~duties other than~~
12 ~~diagnosis, prescription, surgery, or initiating treatment~~ TASKS under the
13 ~~direction and~~ APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF supervision ~~of~~ BY a licensed
14 veterinarian who ~~shall be~~ IS responsible for the ~~person's~~ INDIVIDUAL'S
15 performance IN ACCORDANCE WITH BOARD RULES ADOPTED PURSUANT TO
16 12-315-105.5.

17 (r) AN INDIVIDUAL ACTING UNDER AT LEAST INDIRECT
18 SUPERVISION OF A LICENSED VETERINARIAN FROM PROVIDING CARE TO
19 ANIMALS LOCATED AT AN ANIMAL SHELTER THAT ARE THE PROPERTY OR
20 UNDER THE STEWARDSHIP OF AN ANIMAL SHELTER IF:

21 (I) THE INDIVIDUAL IS PERFORMING TASKS IN COMPLIANCE WITH
22 A WRITTEN OR VERBAL PROTOCOL PROVIDED BY THE SUPERVISING
23 LICENSED VETERINARIAN; AND

24 (II) THE SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN HAS DETERMINED
25 THE INDIVIDUAL HAS RECEIVED SUFFICIENT AND PROPER TRAINING;

26 (s) AN INDIVIDUAL FROM PERFORMING ACCEPTED ANIMAL
27 HUSBANDRY ON LIVESTOCK AS THOSE TERMS ARE DEFINED IN SECTION

1 35-42-103 IF THE INDIVIDUAL IS AN OWNER OF AN ANIMAL OR IS AN
2 INDIVIDUAL ACTING UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE OWNER OF THE ANIMAL
3 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1)(f)(I) OF THIS SECTION; OR

4 (t) AN INDIVIDUAL FROM PERFORMING TASKS ON LIVESTOCK
5 UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A LICENSED VETERINARIAN AND:

6 (I) THE SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN HAS ESTABLISHED
7 A VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LIVESTOCK
8 AND THE OWNER OF THE LIVESTOCK;

9 (II) THE INDIVIDUAL IS PERFORMING TASKS IN COMPLIANCE WITH
10 WRITTEN OR VERBAL INSTRUCTIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS DEVELOPED BY
11 THE SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN; AND

12 (III) THE SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN HAS DETERMINED
13 THE INDIVIDUAL PERFORMING THE TASKS HAS RECEIVED SUFFICIENT AND
14 PROPER TRAINING.

15 (2) (a) Notwithstanding subsection (1)(f) of this section, ~~and~~
16 ~~except as permitted by subsection (1)(j) of this section,~~ a person who is
17 not a licensed veterinarian shall not ~~administer,~~ distribute, dispense, or
18 prescribe prescription drugs. Except as provided in subsection (2)(b) of
19 this section, a licensed veterinarian must have a veterinarian-client-patient
20 relationship with the animal and its owner or other caretaker in order to
21 administer, distribute, dispense, or prescribe prescription drugs to or for
22 an animal. A LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY DELEGATE THE
23 ADMINISTRATION OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS OR THE FILLING OF A
24 PRESCRIPTION ORDER TO AN INDIVIDUAL UNDER AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL
25 OF SUPERVISION DETERMINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS ARTICLE 315
26 AND BOARD RULES ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-105.5 (4).

27 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 12-315-105.5 as

1 follows:

2 **12-315-105.5. Delegation to and supervision of veterinary**
3 **technicians, veterinary technician specialists, and other qualified**

4 **personnel - rules.** (1) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY DELEGATE TASKS
5 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION AND RULES ADOPTED BY THE BOARD
6 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

7 (2) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN SHALL ESTABLISH A
8 VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP BEFORE THE
9 VETERINARIAN DELEGATES A TASK TO A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN, A
10 VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST, OR OTHER QUALIFIED PERSONNEL.

11 (3) (a) WHEN DETERMINING WHETHER TO DELEGATE A TASK TO
12 A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN, A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST, OR
13 OTHER QUALIFIED PERSONNEL, A LICENSED VETERINARIAN SHALL
14 CONSIDER:

15 (I) THE LEVEL OF EDUCATION, SKILLS, TRAINING, LICENSING, AND
16 EXPERIENCE OF THE VETERINARY TECHNICIAN, THE VETERINARY
17 TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST, OR OTHER QUALIFIED PERSONNEL;

18 (II) THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF SUPERVISION FOR THE DELEGATED
19 TASK PURSUANT TO SUBSECTIONS (4), (6), AND (7) OF THIS SECTION
20 AND, IF RULES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD, ANY APPLICABLE
21 RULES ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS
22 SECTION; AND

23 (III) WHETHER THE DELEGATION OF THE TASK COMPLIES WITH
24 ALL APPLICABLE STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS.

25 (b) (I) IF A LICENSED VETERINARIAN DELEGATES A TASK TO A
26 VETERINARY TECHNICIAN, VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST, OR
27 OTHER QUALIFIED PERSONNEL AND THAT TASK IS COVERED BY RULES

1 ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION OR AN
2 APPLICABLE BOARD RULE, THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN MUST PROVIDE
3 SUPERVISION AT LEAST AT THE LEVEL OF SUPERVISION PRESCRIBED BY
4 RULE.

5 (II) IF A LICENSED VETERINARIAN DELEGATES A [REDACTED] TASK TO A
6 VETERINARY TECHNICIAN, VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST, OR
7 OTHER QUALIFIED PERSONNEL AND THAT TASK IS NOT COVERED BY RULES
8 ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION OR AN
9 APPLICABLE BOARD RULE, THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY DELEGATE
10 THE TASK AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF SUPERVISION, AS DETERMINED BY
11 THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS PART 1.

12 (4) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2025, THE BOARD SHALL ADOPT
13 RULES REGARDING THE FOLLOWING [REDACTED] TASKS THAT A LICENSED
14 VETERINARIAN MAY DELEGATE TO A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN OR A
15 VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST AND THE STATED LEVEL OF
16 SUPERVISION TO PERFORM THOSE TASKS:

17 (a) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY DELEGATE THE FOLLOWING
18 TASKS TO A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN
19 SPECIALIST WHO IS UNDER THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN'S IMMEDIATE
20 SUPERVISION:

21 (I) ASSISTING IN SURGICAL PROCEDURES; AND

22 (II) THE PLACEMENT OF ABDOMINAL, THORACIC,
23 ESOPHAGOSTOMY, OR PERCUTANEOUS ENDOSCOPIC GASTROSTOMY TUBES.

24 (b) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY DELEGATE THE FOLLOWING
25 TASKS TO A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN
26 SPECIALIST WHO IS UNDER AT LEAST DIRECT SUPERVISION BY THE
27 LICENSED VETERINARIAN:

- 1 (I) DENTAL PROCEDURES, INCLUDING, AT A MINIMUM:
- 2 (A) REMOVING CALCULUS, SOFT DEPOSITS, PLAQUE, AND STAINS;
- 3 (B) SMOOTHING, FILING, AND POLISHING OF TEETH;
- 4 (C) SINGLE ROOT EXTRACTIONS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE
- 5 SECTIONING OF THE TOOTH OR SECTIONING OF THE BONE; AND
- 6 (D) SUTURING A GINGIVAL INCISION;
- 7 (II) PLACEMENT OF EPIDURAL AND INTRAOSSEOUS CATHETERS;
- 8 (III) SUTURING, STAPLING, OR GLUING AN EXISTING SURGICAL SKIN
- 9 INCISION; AND
- 10 (IV) TREATMENT OF MINOR MEDICAL CONDITIONS, AS DETERMINED
- 11 BY THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN, IF:
- 12 (A) THE VETERINARY TECHNICIAN OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN
- 13 SPECIALIST HAS THE TRAINING AND COMPETENCY TO PERFORM THE
- 14 TREATMENT;
- 15 (B) THE TREATMENT IS PERFORMED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE
- 16 LICENSED VETERINARIAN OR UNDER PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED WRITTEN
- 17 PROTOCOLS; AND
- 18 (C) THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN IS AVAILABLE TO MANAGE THE
- 19 CASE IF IT IS DETERMINED THAT THE CONDITION OF THE PATIENT REQUIRES
- 20 CARE BEYOND THE ABILITIES OF THE VETERINARY TECHNICIAN OR
- 21 VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST.
- 22 (c) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY DELEGATE THE FOLLOWING
- 23 TASKS TO A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN
- 24 SPECIALIST WHO IS UNDER AT LEAST INDIRECT SUPERVISION BY THE
- 25 LICENSED VETERINARIAN:
- 26 (I) UNLESS PROHIBITED BY STATE OR FEDERAL LAW, THE
- 27 ADMINISTRATION AND APPLICATION OF TREATMENTS, INCLUDING:

- 1 (A) PRESCRIPTION DRUGS;
- 2 (B) MEDICATIONS;
- 3 (C) CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES;
- 4 (D) ENEMAS; AND
- 5 (E) BIOLOGICAL IMMUNOLOGICAL AGENTS;
- 6 (II) INTRAVENOUS AND INTRA-ARTERIAL CATHETERIZATIONS AND
- 7 MAINTENANCE;
- 8 (III) IMAGING, INCLUDING RADIOGRAPHY, ULTRASONOGRAPHY,
- 9 COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY, MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING, AND
- 10 FLUOROSCOPY AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF RADIOPAQUE AGENTS OR
- 11 MATERIALS;
- 12 (IV) UNLESS PROHIBITED BY STATE OR FEDERAL LAW, THE
- 13 COLLECTION OF:
- 14 (A) BLOOD;
- 15 (B) CELLULAR OR MICROBIOLOGICAL SAMPLES THROUGH SKIN
- 16 SCRAPINGS, IMPRESSIONS, OR OTHER NONSURGICAL METHODS; AND
- 17 (C) URINE THROUGH BLADDER EXPRESSION, UNOBSTRUCTED
- 18 CATHETERIZATION, CYSTOCENTESIS, OR INSERTION OF AN INDWELLING
- 19 URINARY CATHETER;
- 20 (V) MONITORING OF:
- 21 (A) AN ELECTROCARDIOGRAM, OR "EKG";
- 22 (B) BLOOD PRESSURE; AND
- 23 (C) CARBON DIOXIDE AND BLOOD OXYGEN SATURATION;
- 24 (VI) CLINICAL LABORATORY TEST PROCEDURES;
- 25 (VII) HANDLING AND DISPOSING OF BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE
- 26 MATERIALS;
- 27 (VIII) IMPLANTATION OF A SUBCUTANEOUS MICROCHIP;

- 1 (IX) ADMINISTRATION OF A THERAPEUTIC LASER, EXCEPT FOR THE
2 USE OF SURGICAL LASERS;
- 3 (X) APPLICATION OF ANIMAL REHABILITATION THERAPIES;
- 4 (XI) OCULAR TONOMETRY, SCHIRMER TEAR TESTS, OR
5 FLUORESCEIN STAIN APPLICATION;
- 6 (XII) SUTURE AND STAPLE REMOVAL;
- 7 (XIII) APPLICATION OF SPLINTS AND SLINGS FOR THE TEMPORARY
8 IMMOBILIZATION OF FRACTURES;
- 9 (XIV) ADMINISTRATION OF CHEMOTHERAPY OR RADIATION
10 THERAPY;
- 11 (XV) REPRODUCTIVE ULTRASOUND AND SEMEN EVALUATION;
- 12 (XVI) BLOOD OR BLOOD COMPONENT COLLECTION, PREPARATION,
13 AND ADMINISTRATION FOR TRANSFUSION OR BLOOD BANKING PURPOSES;
- 14 (XVII) PLACEMENT OF GASTRIC, NASOGASTRIC, OR
15 NASOESOPHAGEAL TUBES;
- 16 (XVIII) FLUID ASPIRATION FROM A BODY CAVITY OR ORGAN;
- 17 (XIX) MINOR WOUND MANAGEMENT;
- 18 (XX) PLACEMENT OF NASAL CATHETERS; AND
- 19 (XXI) EMERGENCY PATIENT CARE, SUCH AS:
- 20 (A) APPLICATION OF TOURNIQUETS OR PRESSURE PROCEDURES TO
21 CONTROL HEMORRHAGE;
- 22 (B) APPLICATION OF APPROPRIATE WOUND DRESSINGS;
- 23 (C) RESUSCITATIVE OXYGEN PROCEDURES;
- 24 (D) ANTI-SEIZURE TREATMENT;
- 25 (E) SUPPORTIVE TREATMENT IN HEAT PROSTRATION CASES;
- 26 (F) ADMINISTRATION OF A DRUG, CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE, OR
27 PARENTERAL FLUIDS TO MANAGE AND CONTROL PAIN, PREVENT FURTHER

1 INJURY, PREVENT OR CONTROL SHOCK, OR PREVENT THE SUFFERING OF AN
2 ANIMAL, UP TO AND INCLUDING EUTHANASIA; AND

3 (G) INITIATION AND PERFORMANCE OF CARDIOPULMONARY
4 RESUSCITATION, OR "CPR", INCLUDING ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION
5 AND DEFIBRILLATION, AND IMMEDIATE POST-RESUSCITATION CARE.

6 (5) (a) IN PROMULGATING RULES PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION
7 RELATED TO THE DELEGATION OF TASKS AND SUPERVISION OF VETERINARY
8 PROFESSIONALS OR OTHER PERSONNEL, THE BOARD SHALL:

9 (I) CONSULT WITH LICENSED VETERINARIANS, REGISTERED
10 VETERINARY TECHNICIANS, VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALISTS,
11 CLIENTS, AND OTHER RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS, AS DETERMINED BY THE
12 BOARD; AND

13 (II) PERMIT A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST TO PERFORM
14 ANY TASK UNDER AT LEAST INDIRECT SUPERVISION BY A LICENSED
15 VETERINARY IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS SECTION.

16 (b) THE BOARD SHALL REVIEW AND UPDATE THE RULES
17 PROMULGATED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION AS NECESSARY TO ACCOUNT
18 FOR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AND
19 VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY.

20 (6) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY DELEGATE ANY TASK TO
21 A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST WHO IS UNDER AT LEAST INDIRECT
22 SUPERVISION BY THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN IF THE LICENSED
23 VETERINARIAN DETERMINES THE TASK IS WITHIN THE VETERINARY
24 TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST'S TRAINING, EXPERIENCE, AND COMPETENCY AND
25 IS OTHERWISE NOT IN CONFLICT WITH THIS ARTICLE 315, AN APPLICABLE
26 BOARD RULE, OR ANY OTHER STATE OR FEDERAL LAW.

27 (7) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF THIS ARTICLE 315, AN

1 APPLICABLE BOARD RULE, OR ANY OTHER STATE OR FEDERAL LAW, A
2 LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY DELEGATE A TASK TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO
3 IS NOT A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN
4 SPECIALIST IF THE VETERINARIAN DETERMINES THAT THE TASK IS WITHIN
5 THE INDIVIDUAL'S TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE AND THE INDIVIDUAL IS
6 UNDER THE VETERINARIAN'S DIRECT OR IMMEDIATE SUPERVISION; EXCEPT
7 THAT THE TREATMENT OF MINOR MEDICAL CONDITIONS MAY ONLY BE
8 DELEGATED TO A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN
9 SPECIALIST IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (4)(b)(IV) OF THIS
10 SECTION.

11 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-106, **amend**
12 (5)(a) and (5)(b) as follows:

13 **12-315-106. Board of veterinary medicine - creation - powers**
14 **- rules.** (5) The board has the power to:

15 (a) Examine and determine the qualifications and fitness of
16 applicants for a license to practice veterinary medicine, ~~or~~ for registration
17 as a veterinary technician, OR FOR DESIGNATION AS A VETERINARY
18 TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST in this state;

19 (b) Pursuant to section 12-20-404, issue, renew, deny, suspend, or
20 revoke licenses to practice veterinary medicine, ~~or~~ registrations of
21 veterinary technicians, AND DESIGNATIONS OF REGISTERED VETERINARY
22 TECHNICIANS AS VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALISTS in the state or
23 otherwise discipline or fine, or both, licensees or registrants consistent
24 with this article 315 and the rules adopted by the board under this article
25 315;

26 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-110, **amend**
27 (3)(a)(II) as follows:

1 **12-315-110. License renewal - waiver - rules - continuing**
2 **education.** (3) (a) (II) The board-approved continuing educational
3 program must:

4 (A) Require two hours of jurisprudence on the "Colorado
5 Veterinary Practice Act" biennially; ~~and~~

6 (B) Permit a licensee to take up to sixteen hours of continuing
7 education courses in nonbiomedical topics, which topics may include
8 client communication, management, leadership, and other topics that
9 support veterinary practice and a highly functional veterinary workforce;

10 AND

11 (C) REQUIRE TWO HOURS EACH LICENSING PERIOD ON TOPICS
12 RELATED TO THE DELEGATION OF █ TASKS AND THE SUPERVISION OF
13 VETERINARY TECHNICIANS, VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALISTS, AND
14 OTHER PERSONNEL.

15 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-112, **amend**
16 (1)(ee) as follows:

17 **12-315-112. Discipline of licensees.** (1) Upon receipt of a signed
18 complaint by a complainant or upon its own motion, the board may
19 proceed to a hearing in accordance with section 12-315-113. After a
20 hearing, and by a concurrence of a majority of members, the board may
21 take disciplinary or other action as authorized in section 12-20-404
22 against an applicant for a license or a licensed veterinarian for any of the
23 following reasons:

24 (ee) Failure to properly supervise a veterinary student, a veterinary
25 student preceptor, a veterinary technician, ~~or~~ A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN
26 SPECIALIST, other veterinary staff, OR OTHER INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE
27 PERFORMING █ TASKS UNDER A LICENSED VETERINARIAN'S SUPERVISION;

1 **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-201, **amend**
2 (1) introductory portion and (2); and **add** (1)(c), (1)(d), and (1.5) as
3 follows:

4 **12-315-201. Additional board duties - rules - repeal.** (1) In
5 addition to any other duties specified in this part 2 ~~or section 12-315-106~~
6 AND SECTIONS 12-315-105.5 AND 12-315-106, the board shall:

7 (c) APPROVE NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED VETERINARY TECHNICIAN
8 SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE PURPOSES OF
9 DESIGNATING VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALISTS IN THIS STATE; AND

10 (d) ADOPT ANY RULES NECESSARY FOR THE DELEGATION OF
11 VETERINARY TASKS TO VETERINARY TECHNICIANS AND VETERINARY
12 TECHNICIAN SPECIALISTS AND FOR THE SUPERVISION OF THOSE DELEGATED
13 TASKS BY A LICENSED VETERINARIAN.

14 (1.5) THE BOARD SHALL NOT:

15 (a) CHARGE A FEE IN ADDITION TO THE REGISTRATION FEE
16 CHARGED PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-123 FOR THE DESIGNATION OF
17 VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALISTS; OR

18 (b) INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF THE REGISTRATION FEE CHARGED
19 PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-123 FOR VETERINARY TECHNICIANS WHO
20 SEEK VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST DESIGNATION TO AN AMOUNT
21 THAT IS MORE THAN THE REGISTRATION FEE THAT IS REQUIRED OF OTHER
22 VETERINARY TECHNICIANS.

23 (2) If the board does not approve a credentialing organization for
24 purposes of credentialing veterinary technicians OR VETERINARY
25 TECHNICIAN SPECIALISTS in this state pursuant to subsection (1)(a) OR
26 (1)(c) of this section because there is no credentialing organization that
27 meets the requirements set forth in subsections (1)(a)(I) to (1)(a)(IV) OR

1 SUBSECTION (1)(c) of this section or for any other reason, the board shall
2 establish by rule and administer a credentialing process for veterinary
3 technician registration OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST
4 DESIGNATION pursuant to this part 2.

5 **SECTION 9.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-203, **add**
6 (4.5) as follows:

7 **12-315-203. Application for veterinary technician registration**
8 **- qualifications - provisional registration - fee - veterinary technician**
9 **specialist designation - rules - repeal.** (4.5) (a) ON AND AFTER JANUARY
10 1, 2026, A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN MAY APPLY TO THE BOARD FOR
11 DESIGNATION AS A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST AS PART OF AN
12 APPLICATION FOR A NEW OR A RENEWAL REGISTRATION AS A VETERINARY
13 TECHNICIAN.

14 (b) TO OBTAIN A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST
15 DESIGNATION, AN APPLICANT MUST DEMONSTRATE TO THE BOARD'S
16 SATISFACTION, IN THE FORM AND MANNER SPECIFIED BY THE BOARD BY
17 RULE, THAT THE APPLICANT HAS BEEN AWARDED A SPECIALIST
18 DESIGNATION OR CERTIFICATION FROM:

19 (I) AN ACADEMY RECOGNIZED BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
20 VETERINARY TECHNICIANS IN AMERICA'S COMMITTEE OF VETERINARY
21 TECHNICIAN SPECIALITIES, OR ITS SUCCESSOR ORGANIZATION; OR

22 (II) AN ORGANIZATION THAT THE BOARD HAS DETERMINED BY
23 RULE TO HAVE EQUIVALENT TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS
24 PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-201 (1)(c).

25 **SECTION 10.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 12-315-204
26 as follows:

27 **12-315-204. Use of title restricted.** (1) On and after January 1,

1 2024, only ~~a person~~ AN INDIVIDUAL who is registered pursuant to ~~this part~~
2 2 SECTION 12-315-203 may use the title "veterinary technician" or
3 "registered veterinary technician" or the initials "VT" or "RVT".

4 (2) ON AND AFTER JANUARY 1, 2026, ONLY AN INDIVIDUAL WHO
5 HAS A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST DESIGNATION PURSUANT TO
6 SECTION 12-315-203 (4.5) MAY USE THE TITLE "VETERINARY TECHNICIAN
7 SPECIALIST" OR "REGISTERED VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST" OR
8 THE INITIALS "VTS" OR "RVTS".

9 **SECTION 11.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-206, **amend**
10 (3) as follows:

11 **12-315-206. Expiration, renewal, reinstatement, or**
12 **reactivation of a registration - inactive status - rules - definition.**

13 (3) (a) The board shall not renew, reinstate, or reactivate a registration
14 issued pursuant to section 12-315-203 (3) unless the veterinary technician
15 demonstrates to the board's satisfaction that the veterinary technician
16 maintains active credentialing with the credentialing organization. Subject
17 to board rule, the evidence may be provided by an attestation on the
18 registration application.

19 (b) THE BOARD SHALL NOT RENEW A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN'S
20 DESIGNATION AS A SPECIALIST OBTAINED PURSUANT TO SECTION
21 12-315-203 (4.5) UNLESS THE VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST
22 DEMONSTRATES TO THE BOARD'S SATISFACTION THAT THE VETERINARY
23 TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST HAS SATISFIED THE CONTINUING EDUCATION
24 REQUIREMENTS OF THE CREDENTIALING ORGANIZATION THAT ARE
25 NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN AN ACTIVE DESIGNATION OR CERTIFICATION AS
26 A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST.

27 **SECTION 12.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-207, **amend**

1 (1) introductory portion, (1)(e), and (1)(n) as follows:

2 **12-315-207. Discipline of a registered veterinary technician -**
3 **repeal.** (1) Upon receipt of a signed complaint by a complainant or upon
4 its own motion, the board may proceed to a hearing in accordance with
5 section 12-315-113. After a hearing, and by a concurrence of a majority
6 of members, the board may take disciplinary action as authorized in
7 section 12-20-404 against an applicant for a registration, ~~or~~ a registered
8 veterinary technician, OR A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST for any
9 of the following reasons:

10 (e) Unprofessional or unethical conduct or engaging in practices
11 that are in violation of generally accepted standards for practice as a
12 veterinary technician OR AS A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST or
13 prescribed by the rules of the board;

14 (n) Practicing or performing services beyond ~~a registrant's~~ THE
15 scope of competence OF A REGISTERED VETERINARY TECHNICIAN OR A
16 DESIGNATED VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST OR WITHOUT THE
17 APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF SUPERVISION BY A LICENSED VETERINARIAN;

18 **SECTION 13.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 12-315-209
19 as follows:

20 **12-315-209. Duties of licensed veterinarian - supervision of**
21 **veterinary technicians and veterinary technician specialists - rules.**

22 (1) A veterinary technician OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST is
23 authorized to provide care to animals under the ~~direction and~~
24 APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF supervision, as ~~defined~~ DETERMINED by the board
25 by rule ~~of~~ PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-105.5 (4) OR (6), BY a licensed
26 veterinarian who is responsible for the veterinary technician's OR
27 VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST'S performance. The licensed

1 veterinarian ~~directing~~ DELEGATING TASKS TO and supervising the
2 veterinary technician OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST is
3 responsible for the care of the animal.

4 (2) Nothing in this part 2 prohibits a person who is not a
5 veterinary technician OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST pursuant
6 to this part 2 from performing tasks relating to animal care under the
7 ~~direction and~~ DIRECT OR IMMEDIATE supervision of a licensed veterinarian
8 who is responsible for the care of the animal.

9 **SECTION 14.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 12-315-210
10 as follows:

11 **12-315-210. Unauthorized practice - penalties.** A person who
12 practices or offers or attempts to practice as a veterinary technician
13 without an active registration issued under this part 2 OR AS A
14 VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST WITHOUT AN ACTIVE VETERINARY
15 TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST DESIGNATION UNDER THIS PART 2 is subject to
16 penalties pursuant to section 12-20-407 (1)(a).

17 **SECTION 15. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
18 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
19 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
20 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
21 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
22 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
23 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
24 November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
25 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.