

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

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 24-0363.01 Christopher McMichael x4775

**HOUSE BILL 24-1048**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**McCormick and Martinez, McLachlan**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Ginal and Pelton B., Pelton R., Simpson**

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**House Committees**

Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF VETERINARY SERVICES THROUGH**  
102      **TELEHEALTH.**

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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/>.)*

**Water Resources and Agriculture Review Committee.** The bill concerns the use of telehealth to provide veterinary services. The bill defines different types of telehealth tools that can be used in a veterinary practice.

In current law, one criterion for the establishment of a veterinarian-client-patient relationship is that the veterinarian has

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.

conducted an examination of the animal that is the patient. The bill clarifies that the examination must be an in-person, physical examination. The bill also extends the veterinarian-client-patient relationship to other licensed veterinarians who share the same physical premises as the veterinarian who established the relationship if the other veterinarians have access to and have reviewed the patient's medical records.

The bill allows a licensed veterinarian who has established a veterinarian-client-patient relationship to use telehealth to provide veterinary services to clients and patients in Colorado with the consent of the client. A licensed veterinarian may also refer a patient to a veterinary specialist, who may provide veterinary services via telemedicine under the referring veterinarian's veterinarian-client-patient relationship.

The bill authorizes the state board of veterinary medicine to establish rules for the use of telehealth to provide veterinary services.

The bill clarifies that only a licensed veterinarian with an established veterinarian-client-patient relationship may prescribe medication using telemedicine.

The bill allows a licensed veterinarian who has established a veterinarian-client-patient relationship to supervise veterinary personnel who are not located on the same premises using telesupervision if the veterinarian and the personnel are employees of the same veterinary practice and the veterinary premises, the veterinary professionals or other veterinary personnel, and the patient are all located in Colorado.

The bill establishes record-keeping, confidentiality, and privacy requirements related to the use of telehealth.

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

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-104, **amend**  
3 (19) as follows:

4           **12-315-104. Definitions.** As used in this article 315, unless the  
5 context otherwise requires:

6           (19)(a) "Veterinarian-client-patient relationship" means ~~that~~ THE  
7 relationship established when:

8           ~~(a)~~ (I) The veterinarian has assumed the responsibility for making  
9 medical judgments regarding the health of an animal and the need for  
10 medical treatment, and the owner, OWNER'S AGENT, or ~~other~~ AUTHORIZED  
11 caretaker has agreed to follow the instruction of the veterinarian;

1           **(b)** (II) There is sufficient knowledge of an animal by the  
2 veterinarian to initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis of the  
3 medical condition of the animal, which means that the veterinarian has  
4 recently seen and is personally acquainted with the keeping and care of  
5 the animal by virtue of an IN-PERSON, PHYSICAL examination of the  
6 animal or by medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises  
7 where the animal is kept; and

8           **(c)** (III) The practicing veterinarian is readily available, or has  
9 arranged for emergency coverage, for follow-up evaluation in the event  
10 of adverse reactions or failure of the treatment regimen.

11           **(b)** A VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP ESTABLISHED  
12 ACCORDING TO SUBSECTION (19)(a) OF THIS SECTION MAY EXTEND TO  
13 OTHER LICENSED VETERINARIANS WORKING OUT OF THE SAME PHYSICAL  
14 PRACTICE LOCATION AS THE VETERINARIAN WHO ESTABLISHED THE  
15 VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP IF THE OTHER LICENSED  
16 VETERINARIANS HAVE ACCESS TO AND HAVE REVIEWED THE PATIENT'S  
17 MEDICAL RECORDS.

18           **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-106, **add** (9)  
19 as follows:

20           **12-315-106. Board of veterinary medicine - creation - powers**  
21 **- rules.** (9) **(a)** THE BOARD MAY PROMULGATE RULES REGARDING THE USE  
22 OF TELEHEALTH TO PROVIDE VETERINARY SERVICES IN COLORADO  
23 PURSUANT TO PART 3 OF THIS ARTICLE 315.

24           **(b)** IN DEVELOPING RULES PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (9)(a) OF  
25 THIS SECTION, THE BOARD SHALL CONSULT WITH LICENSED  
26 VETERINARIANS, REGISTERED VETERINARY TECHNICIANS, CLIENTS, AND  
27 OTHER RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS AS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD.

1           **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 3 to article  
2 315 of title 12 as follows:

3   PART 3

4                           USE OF TELEHEALTH TO PROVIDE  
5                           VETERINARY SERVICES

6           **12-315-301. Definitions - rules.** AS USED IN THIS PART 3, UNLESS  
7 THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

8           (1) "TELE-ADVICE" MEANS THE PROVISION OF ANY HEALTH  
9 INFORMATION, OPINION, OR GUIDANCE BY A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL  
10 THAT IS NOT SPECIFIC TO A PARTICULAR ANIMAL'S, OR GROUP OF ANIMALS',  
11 HEALTH, ILLNESS, OR INJURY AND THAT IS NOT INTENDED TO DIAGNOSE,  
12 TREAT, OR ISSUE PROGNOSIS OF AN ANIMAL'S, OR GROUP OF ANIMALS',  
13 PHYSICAL OR BEHAVIORAL ILLNESS OR INJURY. A  
14 VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP IS NOT REQUIRED TO  
15 PROVIDE TELE-ADVICE.

16           (2) "TELECONSULTING" MEANS A VETERINARIAN WHO  
17 COMMUNICATES WITH A VETERINARY SPECIALIST OR OTHER QUALIFIED  
18 EXPERT USING TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY TO GAIN INSIGHT OR  
19 ADVICE REGARDING THE CARE OF A PATIENT.

20           (3) "TELE-EDUCATION" MEANS THE USE OF INFORMATION AND  
21 TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY FOR DISTANCE LEARNING.

22           (4) (a) "TELEHEALTH" MEANS THE USE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
23 TECHNOLOGY TO PROVIDE VETERINARY SERVICES OR TO COLLECT AND  
24 DELIVER VETERINARY HEALTH INFORMATION OR EDUCATION VIRTUALLY  
25 AND CAN ENCOMPASS GENERAL VETERINARY SERVICES OR  
26 PATIENT-SPECIFIC VETERINARY SERVICES.

27           (b) "TELEHEALTH" MAY INCLUDE TELE-ADVICE, TELECONSULTING,

1 TELE-EDUCATION, TELEMEDICINE, TELEMONITORING, TELEREFERRAL,  
2 TELESUPERVISION, TELETRIAGE, AND OTHER TOOLS THAT HELP  
3 VETERINARY PROFESSIONALS DELIVER VETERINARY EDUCATION AND  
4 SERVICES VIRTUALLY.

5 (5) "TELEMEDICINE" MEANS THE REMOTE PRACTICE OF  
6 VETERINARY MEDICINE THROUGH THE USE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
7 TECHNOLOGY THAT ALLOWS A LICENSED VETERINARIAN WITH AN  
8 ESTABLISHED VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP TO  
9 EVALUATE, DIAGNOSE, AND TREAT A PATIENT VIRTUALLY.

10 (6) "TELEMONITORING" MEANS THE USE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
11 TECHNOLOGY TO AUGMENT VETERINARY SERVICES BY COLLECTING AND  
12 DELIVERING HEALTH INFORMATION FROM A PATIENT.

13 (7) "TELEREFERRAL" MEANS A VETERINARIAN WITH AN  
14 ESTABLISHED VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP WHO REFERS  
15 THE CLIENT TO A VETERINARY SPECIALIST TO PROVIDE VETERINARY  
16 SERVICES USING TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY UNDER THE  
17 ESTABLISHED VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP.

18 (8) "TELESUPERVISION" MEANS THE SUPERVISION OF INDIVIDUALS  
19 PROVIDING VETERINARY SERVICES USING MEDIA SUCH AS AUDIO,  
20 AUDIO-VISUAL CONFERENCING, TEXT MESSAGING, E-MAIL, OR OTHER  
21 VIRTUAL OR DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES.

22 (9) "TELETRIAGE" MEANS THE SAFE, APPROPRIATE, AND TIMELY  
23 ASSESSMENT OF AN ANIMAL, OR A GROUP OF ANIMALS, UNDER CONDITIONS  
24 OF UNCERTAINTY AND URGENCY, AND THE POSSIBLE REFERRAL TO A  
25 LICENSED VETERINARIAN, AFTER DISCUSSION WITH THE INDIVIDUAL  
26 RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ANIMAL OR GROUP OF ANIMALS, USING  
27 TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY. A VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT

1 RELATIONSHIP IS NOT REQUIRED FOR SUCH AN ASSESSMENT OR REFERRAL.  
2 "TELETRIAGE" DOES NOT INCLUDE THE RENDERING OF A DIAGNOSIS.

3 (10) "VETERINARY SPECIALIST" MEANS A VETERINARIAN WHO IS  
4 FORMALLY RECOGNIZED AS A SPECIALIST FROM A SPECIALTY  
5 ORGANIZATION THAT IS RECOGNIZED BY THE AMERICAN VETERINARY  
6 MEDICAL ASSOCIATION'S AMERICAN BOARD OF VETERINARY  
7 SPECIALTIES, OR ITS SUCCESSOR ORGANIZATION, OR ANOTHER  
8 ASSOCIATION THAT RECOGNIZES VETERINARY SPECIALISTS THAT THE  
9 STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE HAS APPROVED BY RULE.

10 **12-315-302. Veterinarian-client-patient relationship -**  
11 **telemedicine.** (1) ONLY A LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY ESTABLISH A  
12 VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP IN THIS STATE.

13 (2) (a) A VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP MUST BE  
14 ESTABLISHED BY AN IN-PERSON, PHYSICAL EXAMINATION OF THE ANIMAL  
15 OR TIMELY VISITS TO THE PREMISES WHERE THE ANIMAL IS KEPT.

16 (b) A VETERINARY SPECIALIST MAY USE TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
17 TECHNOLOGY TO SEE A PATIENT UNDER ANOTHER VETERINARIAN'S  
18 PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP  
19 PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-306.

20 (3) AN ESTABLISHED VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT  
21 RELATIONSHIP MAY BE MAINTAINED THROUGH EXAMINATIONS THAT  
22 OCCUR USING TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY IN BETWEEN  
23 APPROPRIATE IN-PERSON, PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS OR VISITS TO THE  
24 PREMISES WHERE THE PATIENT IS KEPT.

25 **12-315-303. Treatment of patients using telehealth -**  
26 **telemedicine - licensure - technology - consent.** (1) (a) A PERSON MUST  
27 BE LICENSED TO PRACTICE VETERINARY MEDICINE IN COLORADO IN ORDER

1 TO PRACTICE TELEMEDICINE IN COLORADO.

2 (b) A PERSON WHO IS NOT A LICENSED VETERINARIAN IN  
3 COLORADO AND WHO USES TELEMEDICINE TO PROVIDE VETERINARY  
4 SERVICES TO ANIMALS AND INDIVIDUALS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ANIMALS  
5 ENGAGES IN THE UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE.  
6 SUCH PERSON IS SUBJECT TO PENALTIES FOR THE UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE  
7 OF VETERINARY MEDICINE PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-114.

8 (2) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN SHALL EMPLOY SOUND,  
9 PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT WHEN DETERMINING WHETHER TO PROVIDE  
10 VETERINARY SERVICES TO A PATIENT THROUGH TELEMEDICINE AND SHALL  
11 USE TELEMEDICINE ONLY WHEN SUCH USE IS MEDICALLY APPROPRIATE  
12 BASED ON THE PATIENT'S CONDITION.

13 (3) A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL SHALL ENSURE THAT THE  
14 TECHNOLOGY USED WHEN PROVIDING VETERINARY SERVICES THROUGH  
15 TELEHEALTH IS OF APPROPRIATE QUALITY TO ENSURE:

16 (a) ACCURACY OF THE REMOTE ASSESSMENT OF THE PATIENT'S  
17 CONDITION OR BEHAVIOR;

18 (b) CLEAR COMMUNICATION WITH CLIENTS; AND

19 (c) COMPLIANCE WITH ALL RELEVANT PRIVACY AND  
20 CONFIDENTIALITY REQUIREMENTS.

21 (4) (a) A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL SHALL OBTAIN CONSENT  
22 FROM THE CLIENT BEFORE PROVIDING VETERINARY SERVICES THROUGH  
23 TELEHEALTH AND SHALL RECORD THE CLIENT'S CONSENT IN THE PATIENT'S  
24 MEDICAL RECORD.

25 (b) A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL USING TELEHEALTH TO PROVIDE  
26 VETERINARY SERVICES SHALL INFORM THE CLIENT, OR THE CLIENT'S  
27 AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE, OF:

1 (I) THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL'S NAME, LOCATION, AND, IF  
2 APPLICABLE, LICENSE NUMBER AND LICENSURE STATUS;

3 (II) WHETHER, IN THE VETERINARIAN'S PROFESSIONAL OPINION,  
4 THE PATIENT'S CONDITION CAN BE ACCURATELY DIAGNOSED OR TREATED  
5 USING TELEMEDICINE; AND

6 (III) THE DIAGNOSIS, PROGNOSIS, AND TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR  
7 THE PATIENT.

8 **12-315-304. Standard of care.** (1) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN  
9 USING TELEHEALTH TO PROVIDE VETERINARY SERVICES SHALL CONDUCT  
10 ALL NECESSARY PATIENT EVALUATIONS AND TREATMENT USING THE  
11 APPLICABLE STANDARD OF CARE FOR THOSE EVALUATIONS AND  
12 TREATMENTS.

13 (2) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN SHALL NOT RECOMMEND  
14 TREATMENT OR CARE FOR AN ANIMAL BASED SOLELY ON A CLIENT'S  
15 RESPONSES TO AN ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE.

16 **12-315-305. Prescribing medication through telemedicine.**

17 (1) (a) ONLY A LICENSED VETERINARIAN WITH AN ESTABLISHED  
18 VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP MAY PRESCRIBE  
19 MEDICATION THROUGH TELEMEDICINE.

20 (b) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN SHALL USE PROFESSIONAL  
21 JUDGMENT WHEN DETERMINING IF IT IS APPROPRIATE TO PRESCRIBE  
22 MEDICATION THROUGH TELEMEDICINE.

23 (2) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN WHO PRESCRIBES MEDICATION  
24 THROUGH TELEMEDICINE IS SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS ON  
25 PRESCRIPTIONS SPECIFIED IN SECTION 12-30-109.

26 **12-315-306. Telereferral.** (1) A VETERINARIAN WITH AN  
27 ESTABLISHED VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP MAY REFER



1 A PATIENT TO A VETERINARY SPECIALIST.

2 (2) A VETERINARY SPECIALIST TO WHOM A PATIENT IS REFERRED  
3 MAY PROVIDE VETERINARY SERVICES USING TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
4 TECHNOLOGY FOR THE PATIENT AND CLIENT UNDER THE REFERRING  
5 VETERINARIAN'S VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP.

6 (3) A VETERINARY SPECIALIST TO WHOM A PATIENT IS REFERRED  
7 SHALL PROVIDE THE REFERRING VETERINARIAN WITH INFORMATION  
8 RELATED TO THE DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENT, AND PROGRESS OF THE PATIENT.

9 (4) (a) A VETERINARY SPECIALIST TO WHOM A PATIENT IS  
10 REFERRED SHALL NOT PRESCRIBE MEDICATIONS TO THE PATIENT UNLESS  
11 THE VETERINARY SPECIALIST ESTABLISHES A  
12 VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP THROUGH AN IN-PERSON,  
13 PHYSICAL EXAMINATION OF THE PATIENT.

14 (b) THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN WITH THE ESTABLISHED  
15 VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP MAY PRESCRIBE  
16 MEDICATIONS TO THE PATIENT AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE  
17 VETERINARY SPECIALIST TO WHOM THE PATIENT WAS REFERRED.

18 **12-315-307. Telesupervision.** (1) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN  
19 MAY PROVIDE, AT THE VETERINARIAN'S DISCRETION, TELESUPERVISION OF  
20 REGISTERED VETERINARY TECHNICIANS FOR TASKS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE  
21 DIRECT OR IMMEDIATE SUPERVISION, PURSUANT TO BOARD RULES.

22 (2) A SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN WHO HAS AN  
23 ESTABLISHED VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP MAY USE  
24 TELESUPERVISION TO SUPERVISE REGISTERED VETERINARY TECHNICIANS  
25 WHO ARE NOT LOCATED ON THE SAME PREMISES AS THE SUPERVISING  
26 VETERINARIAN IF:

27 (a) THE SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN AND THE

1 REGISTERED VETERINARY TECHNICIANS ARE EMPLOYEES OF THE SAME  
2 VETERINARY PRACTICE LOCATION; AND

3 (b) THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONALS ARE REGISTERED OR  
4 LICENSED IN COLORADO AND THE PATIENT IS LOCATED IN COLORADO.

5 **12-315-308. Emergency care - continuity of care.** (1) A  
6 LICENSED VETERINARIAN WHO PRACTICES VETERINARY MEDICINE  
7 THROUGH TELEMEDICINE SHALL BE AVAILABLE IN PERSON AT A  
8 VETERINARY PREMISES THAT IS ACCESSIBLE TO THE CLIENT AND PATIENT  
9 OR SHALL ARRANGE FOR ANOTHER LICENSED VETERINARIAN IN COLORADO  
10 TO BE AT A VETERINARY PREMISES THAT IS ACCESSIBLE TO THE CLIENT  
11 AND PATIENT IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY OR FOR NECESSARY FOLLOW-UP  
12 EVALUATIONS.

13 (2) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN SHALL PROVIDE THE CLIENT WITH  
14 A PLAN FOR EMERGENCY OR FOLLOW-UP CARE WHEN PROVIDING  
15 VETERINARY SERVICES THROUGH TELEMEDICINE.

16 **12-315-309. Medical records - definition.** (1) AS USED IN THIS  
17 SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES, "ANIMAL CARE  
18 PROVIDER" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 12-315-119 (1).

19 (2) AN ANIMAL CARE PROVIDER THAT USES TELEHEALTH TO  
20 PROVIDE VETERINARY SERVICES SHALL MAINTAIN MEDICAL RECORDS  
21 PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-119.

22 (3) AN ANIMAL CARE PROVIDER THAT CREATES MEDICAL RECORDS  
23 DURING THE PROVISION OF VETERINARY SERVICES, INCLUDING THE  
24 CLIENT'S CONSENT TO TELEHEALTH SERVICES, SHALL INCLUDE THE  
25 RECORDS IN THE PATIENT'S MEDICAL RECORD AND MAKE THE RECORDS  
26 ACCESSIBLE TO BOTH THE CLIENT AND THE ANIMAL CARE PROVIDER.

27 **12-315-310. Confidentiality and privacy.** A LICENSED

1 VETERINARIAN SHALL ENSURE THAT A CLIENT'S PRIVACY AND  
2 CONFIDENTIALITY ARE PROTECTED WHEN THE VETERINARIAN IS PROVIDING  
3 VETERINARY SERVICES USING TELEHEALTH PURSUANT TO THE  
4 VETERINARIAN'S PROFESSIONAL AND LEGAL OBLIGATIONS.

5 **SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
6 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
7 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except  
8 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V  
9 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this  
10 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take  
11 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
12 November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
13 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.