

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 25-0073.01 Christopher McMichael x4775

HOUSE BILL 25-1285

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

McCormick,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Kipp and Pelton B.,

House Committees

Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE VETERINARY WORKFORCE, AND, IN CONNECTION**
102 **THEREWITH, ESTABLISHING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PRACTICE**
103 **OF VETERINARY MEDICINE BY VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL**
104 **ASSOCIATES.**

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 establishes and modifies requirements related to the practice of veterinary medicine by a veterinary professional associate (VPA). In November 2024, voters in Colorado approved Proposition 129,

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.

which established the role of VPAs and permits VPAs, starting on January 1, 2026, to practice veterinary medicine under certain circumstances. The bill specifies how an individual can register as a VPA in Colorado and clarifies the circumstances under which a VPA can practice veterinary medicine.

The bill specifies that a VPA is only permitted to practice veterinary medicine under the immediate or direct supervision of a supervising licensed veterinarian. Telesupervision of a VPA practicing veterinary medicine is not permitted under the bill.

The bill requires the supervising licensed veterinarian and the VPA to file a signed written agreement with the state board of veterinary medicine (board) that states the veterinarian is responsible for the practice of veterinary medicine by the VPA. Once that agreement has been filed with the board, the supervising licensed veterinarian may delegate aspects of the practice of veterinary medicine to the VPA if:

- The aspects of the practice are within the training, experience, and competency of the VPA;
- The practice of veterinary medicine delegated to the VPA is permitted under requirements of state and federal law and board rules;
- The supervising licensed veterinarian and VPA are located at the same veterinary premises while practicing veterinary medicine; and
- The licensed veterinarian or the VPA has obtained informed consent from the client.

The bill instructs the board to adopt rules regarding the practice of veterinary medicine by VPAs, including rules that:

- Require a VPA to practice veterinary medicine only if under immediate or direct supervision;
- Permit a VPA to perform veterinary tasks that do not constitute the practice of veterinary medicine under indirect supervision if deemed appropriate by the supervising licensed veterinarian;
- Approve a nationally recognized VPA credentialing organization that requires a VPA to complete an accredited university program for VPAs, pass a VPA examination, and complete continuing education requirements;
- Provide guidance to supervising licensed veterinarians in their delegation of tasks to and supervision of VPAs;
- Determine a scope of practice for VPAs;
- Establish a registration fee for the registration of VPAs;
- Determine continuing education requirements for VPAs; and
- Establish an equivalent registration pathway for a veterinary technician specialist, which pathway considers

a veterinary technician specialist's experience, education, and training as a substitute for the education requirements needed to register as a VPA.

The bill clarifies that a veterinarian-client-patient relationship must be established and maintained only by a licensed veterinarian.

The bill requires a licensed veterinarian to comply with certain restrictions when prescribing opioids and benzodiazepines.

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) Proposition 129 was passed by voters in November 2024 and
5 established the role of a veterinary professional associate in Colorado;

6 (b) As a national leader and the first state to establish the role of
7 a veterinary professional associate, Colorado must set a strong foundation
8 and put proper guidelines in place to provide adequate structure for and
9 oversight of veterinary professional associates;

10 (c) By establishing clear guidelines for the department of
11 regulatory agencies and the state board of veterinary medicine that will
12 provide oversight and regulate veterinary professional associates,
13 Colorado will ensure the protection of animals, patients, and owners in
14 Colorado while also protecting public health and shaping the success of
15 the new veterinary professional associate position; and

16 (d) Furthermore, clear guidelines and regulations related to the
17 new veterinary professional associate position will ensure that the will of
18 the voters is implemented and that Colorado's animals receive quality
19 veterinary care.

20 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-104, **amend**
21 **as they will become effective January 1, 2026,** (21.5) and (21.7); and
22 **add** (21.9) as follows:

1 **12-315-104. Definitions.** As used in this article 315, unless the
2 context otherwise requires:

3 (21.5) "Veterinary professional" means a veterinarian licensed
4 pursuant to this part 1, a veterinary professional associate registered
5 pursuant TO part 2 of this article 315, or a veterinary technician or
6 veterinary technician specialist registered pursuant to part 2 of this article
7 315.

8 (21.7) "Veterinary professional associate" means an individual
9 who holds a master's degree in veterinary clinical care, or the equivalent,
10 AS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 12-315-106 (10)
11 AND 12-315-201 (4), and who is subject to the requirements in section
12 12-315-203.7.

13 (21.9) "VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE CREDENTIALING
14 ORGANIZATION" MEANS:

15 (a) A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE CREDENTIALING
16 ORGANIZATION APPROVED BY THE BOARD PURSUANT TO SECTIONS
17 12-315-106 (5)(j) AND 12-315-201 (1)(g) TO CREDENTIAL VETERINARY
18 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES IN THIS STATE; OR

19 (b) THE BOARD IF, PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-201 (3), NO
20 CREDENTIALING ORGANIZATION IS APPROVED.

21 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-105, **amend**
22 **as it will become effective January 1, 2026**, (1)(u); and **add** (1.5) as
23 follows:

24 **12-315-105. License requirements and exceptions - practice of**
25 **veterinary medicine - veterinarian-client-patient relationship -**
26 **prescriptions - definitions - rules.** (1) An individual shall not practice
27 veterinary medicine in this state if the individual is not a licensed

1 veterinarian. An individual shall not practice artificial insemination or ova
2 transplantation of cattle or other animal species in this state except in
3 accordance with rules established pursuant to section 12-315-106 (5)(c).
4 An individual not licensed as a veterinarian pursuant to this part 1 shall
5 not diagnose, issue prognoses for, prescribe for, or perform surgery on an
6 animal. This article 315 does not prohibit:

7 (u) A veterinary professional associate from practicing veterinary
8 medicine ON SPECIES FOR WHICH THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL
9 ASSOCIATE HAS RECEIVED TRAINING AND that is:

10 (I) Within the veterinary professional associate's ~~advanced~~
11 education and experience; ~~and~~

12 (II) WITHIN THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR VETERINARY
13 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES, AS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD PURSUANT TO
14 SECTION 12-315-201 (1)(f);

15 ~~(H)~~ (III) Performed while under the IMMEDIATE OR DIRECT
16 supervision of a licensed veterinarian who is responsible AND LIABLE for
17 the ~~veterinary professional associate's performance~~. ACTS AND OMISSIONS
18 OF THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE; AND

19 (IV) PERFORMED AFTER THE CLIENT HAS SIGNED AN INFORMED
20 CONSENT FORM IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 12-315-209.7 (5).

21 (1.5) ONLY A LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY ESTABLISH AND
22 MAINTAIN A VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP.

23 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-105.5,
24 **amend** (2), (3)(a) introductory portion, (3)(a)(I), (5)(a) introductory
25 portion, and (5)(a)(I); and **add** (5)(a)(III), (5)(a)(IV), and (8) as follows:

26 **12-315-105.5. Delegation to and supervision of veterinary**
27 **technicians, veterinary technician specialists, veterinary professional**

1 **associates, and other qualified personnel - rules.** (2) A licensed
2 veterinarian shall establish a veterinarian-client-patient relationship
3 before the veterinarian delegates a task to a veterinary technician, a
4 veterinary technician specialist, A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE,
5 or other qualified personnel.

6 (3) (a) When determining whether to delegate a task to a
7 veterinary technician, a veterinary technician specialist, A VETERINARY
8 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE, or other qualified personnel, a licensed
9 veterinarian shall consider:

10 (I) The level of education, skills, training, licensing, and
11 experience of the veterinary technician, the veterinary technician
12 specialist, THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE, or other qualified
13 personnel;

14 (5) (a) In ~~promulgating~~ ADOPTING rules pursuant to this section
15 related to the delegation of tasks and supervision of veterinary
16 professionals or other personnel, the board shall:

17 (I) Consult with licensed veterinarians, registered veterinary
18 technicians, veterinary technician specialists, clients, and other relevant
19 stakeholders, as determined by the board; ~~and~~

20 (III) REQUIRE THAT A LICENSED VETERINARIAN SUPERVISE A
21 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE UNDER EITHER IMMEDIATE
22 SUPERVISION OR DIRECT SUPERVISION WHEN THE VETERINARY
23 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE IS PRACTICING VETERINARY MEDICINE; AND

24 (IV) PERMIT A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE TO
25 PERFORM VETERINARY TASKS THAT DO NOT CONSTITUTE THE PRACTICE OF
26 VETERINARY MEDICINE UNDER INDIRECT SUPERVISION IF THE SUPERVISING
27 LICENSED VETERINARIAN DETERMINES THAT THE VETERINARY TASKS ARE

1 WITHIN THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE'S EDUCATION AND
2 TRAINING AND IF THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN DELEGATES THE
3 VETERINARY TASKS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION AND APPLICABLE
4 BOARD RULES.

5 (8) IN ACCORDANCE WITH 21 U.S.C. SEC. 353 (f), IT IS UNLAWFUL
6 FOR AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS NOT A LICENSED VETERINARIAN TO PRESCRIBE
7 OR DISPENSE MEDICATION TO A PATIENT.

8 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-106, **amend**
9 **as it will become effective January 1, 2026, (5)(j); and add (10)** as
10 follows:

11 **12-315-106. Board of veterinary medicine - creation - powers**
12 **- rules.** (5) The board has the power to:

13 (j) ADOPT RULES TO approve a nationally recognized veterinary
14 professional associate credentialing organization for purposes of
15 credentialing veterinary professional associates in this state. The
16 credentialing organization approved by the board ~~may~~ **MUST:**

17 (I) Require completion of a ~~university-approved program~~
18 UNIVERSITY PROGRAM ACCREDITED BY THE AMERICAN VETERINARY
19 MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, OR AN EQUIVALENTLY ACCREDITED PROGRAM AS
20 APPROVED BY THE BOARD, for veterinary professional associates; ~~and~~

21 (II) Require that an applicant pass a veterinary professional
22 associate national examination THAT HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE BOARD;
23 AND

24 (III) REQUIRE CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR VETERINARY
25 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES.

26 (10) THE BOARD MAY ESTABLISH BY RULE AN EQUIVALENT
27 REGISTRATION PATHWAY FOR A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST TO

1 REGISTER AS A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE. THE BOARD MAY
2 CONSIDER THE EXPERIENCE, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING OF A VETERINARY
3 TECHNICIAN WHO IS DESIGNATED AS A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN
4 SPECIALIST PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-203 (4.5) TO BE EQUIVALENT TO
5 THE EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL
6 ASSOCIATE REQUIRED BY SECTION 12-315-203.7 (2)(a).

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

9 **12-315-110. License renewal - waiver - rules - continuing**
10 **education.** (3) (a) (II) The board-approved continuing educational
11 program must:

12 (C) Require two hours each licensing period on topics related to
13 the delegation of tasks TO and the supervision of veterinary technicians,
14 veterinary technician specialists, VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES,
15 and other personnel.

16 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-119, **amend**
17 (1) as follows:

18 **12-315-119. Veterinary records in custody of animal care**
19 **providers - definition - rules.** (1) As used in this section, unless the
20 context otherwise requires, "animal care provider" means:

21 (a) ~~any~~ A veterinary practice or veterinary hospital, including the
22 veterinary teaching hospital at Colorado state university, that provides
23 veterinary care or treatment to animals; AND

24 (b) A FACILITY WHERE A LICENSED VETERINARIAN PROVIDES
25 VETERINARY CARE.

26 **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-121, **amend**
27 (3) as follows:

1 **12-315-121. Corporate structure for the practice of veterinary**
2 **medicine - definitions.** (3) (a) (I) The practice of veterinary medicine by
3 a corporation pursuant to this section must be performed by or under the
4 supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

5 (II) Lay directors, officers, and shareholders of the corporation
6 shall not exercise any authority whatsoever over the independent medical
7 judgment of licensed veterinarians performing or supervising the practice
8 of veterinary medicine by or on behalf of the corporation.

9 (b) A CORPORATION, EMPLOYER, DIRECTOR, OR OFFICER SHALL
10 NOT REQUIRE A LICENSED VETERINARIAN TO SUPERVISE A VETERINARY
11 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE AS A CONDITION OF EMPLOYMENT.

12 **SECTION 9.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-122, **add** (3)
13 as follows:

14 **12-315-122. Veterinary premises - licensed veterinarian**
15 **responsible for veterinary medical decisions - supervision of**
16 **veterinary professional associate.** (3) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY
17 DELEGATE THE PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE TO A VETERINARY
18 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE AND SUPERVISE THE PERFORMANCE OF THE
19 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE IF:

20 (a) THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN HAS SIGNED AN AGREEMENT
21 WITH THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE STATING THAT THE
22 LICENSED VETERINARIAN IS RESPONSIBLE AND LIABLE FOR THE ACTS AND
23 OMISSIONS OF THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE IN THEIR
24 PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AT THE VETERINARY PREMISES AND
25 HAS FILED THAT AGREEMENT WITH THE BOARD;

26 (b) THE DELEGATION, SUPERVISION, AND PERFORMANCE OF THE
27 PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE ARE BEING CONDUCTED IN

1 COMPLIANCE WITH THIS ARTICLE 315 AND ALL APPLICABLE BOARD RULES;

2 (c) THE SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN IS LOCATED AT THE
3 SAME VETERINARY PREMISES AS THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL
4 ASSOCIATE WHILE THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE IS
5 PERFORMING THE PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE; AND

6 (d) THE SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN IS SUPERVISING
7 ONLY A SINGLE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE WHO IS
8 PRACTICING VETERINARY MEDICINE AT ANY ONE TIME.

9 **SECTION 10.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-201, **amend**
10 (1)(d) and (1.5); **amend as they will become effective January 1, 2026,**
11 (1)(e) and (1)(f); and **add** (1)(g), (3), and (4) as follows:

12 **12-315-201. Additional board duties - rules - repeal.** (1) In
13 addition to any other duties specified in this part 2 and sections
14 12-315-105.5 and 12-315-106, the board shall:

15 (d) Adopt any rules necessary for the delegation of veterinary
16 tasks to veterinary technicians, ~~and~~ veterinary technician specialists,
17 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES, OR OTHER PERSONNEL and for
18 the supervision of those delegated tasks by a licensed veterinarian;

19 (e) Require biennial continuing education for veterinary
20 professional associates, as ~~may be~~ determined by the board by rule, as a
21 condition of renewing registration; ~~and~~

22 (f) Adopt any rules necessary for DETERMINING the SCOPE OF
23 practice ~~and supervision of~~ FOR veterinary professional associates; AND

24 (g) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION,
25 ADOPT RULES TO APPROVE A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED VETERINARY
26 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE CREDENTIALING ORGANIZATION FOR PURPOSES
27 OF CREDENTIALING VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES IN THIS STATE

1 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 12-315-106 (5)(j).

2 (1.5) The board shall not:

3 (a) Charge a fee FOR THE DESIGNATION OF VETERINARY
4 TECHNICIAN SPECIALISTS in addition to the registration fee charged
5 ~~pursuant to section 12-315-123 for the designation of veterinary~~
6 ~~technician specialists~~ FOR VETERINARY TECHNICIANS; or

7 (b) Increase the amount of the registration fee charged ~~pursuant~~
8 ~~to section 12-315-123~~ for veterinary technicians who seek veterinary
9 technician specialist designation to an amount that is more than the
10 registration fee that is required of other veterinary technicians.

11 (3) IF THE BOARD DOES NOT APPROVE A VETERINARY
12 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE CREDENTIALING ORGANIZATION FOR PURPOSES
13 OF CREDENTIALING VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES IN THIS STATE
14 PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-106 (5)(j) BECAUSE THERE IS NO
15 CREDENTIALING ORGANIZATION THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS SET
16 FORTH IN SECTION 12-315-106 (5)(j) OR FOR ANY OTHER REASON, THE
17 BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH BY RULE AND ADMINISTER A CREDENTIALING
18 PROCESS FOR VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE REGISTRATION.

19 (4) THE BOARD MAY ESTABLISH BY RULE AN EQUIVALENT
20 REGISTRATION PATHWAY FOR A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST TO
21 REGISTER AS A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE, WHICH PATHWAY
22 CONSIDERS THE EXPERIENCE, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING OF A
23 VETERINARY TECHNICIAN WHO IS DESIGNATED AS A VETERINARY
24 TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-203 (4.5) TO BE
25 EQUIVALENT TO THE EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR A VETERINARY
26 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE REQUIRED BY SECTION 12-315-203.7 (2)(a).

27 **SECTION 11.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 12-315-202

1 as follows:

2 **12-315-202. Registration required - rules.** (1) Effective January
3 1, 2024, ~~a person~~ AN INDIVIDUAL who practices as a veterinary technician
4 in this state must be registered by the board pursuant to this part 2 and
5 rules adopted by the board for the registration of veterinary technicians.

6 (2) EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026, AN INDIVIDUAL WHO INTENDS TO
7 PRACTICE AS A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE IN THIS STATE
8 MUST BE REGISTERED BY THE BOARD PURSUANT TO THIS PART 2 AND
9 RULES ADOPTED BY THE BOARD FOR THE REGISTRATION OF VETERINARY
10 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES.

11 **SECTION 12.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-203.7,
12 **amend as they will become effective January 1, 2026,** (2), (3), and
13 (4)(c); and **add** (4)(c.5) and (6) as follows:

14 **12-315-203.7. Veterinary professional associate - qualifications**
15 **- registration - fees - continuing education - rules. (2) Qualifications.**

16 (a) To be qualified for registration as a veterinary professional associate,
17 an individual must:

18 (a) (I) Be at least ~~eighteen~~ TWENTY-ONE years of age; and

19 (b) (II) Hold a master's degree in veterinary clinical care FROM AN
20 ACCREDITED PROGRAM, AS APPROVED BY THE BOARD, or the equivalent,
21 as determined by the board; AND

22 (III) PASS A NATIONAL CREDENTIALING EXAM APPROVED BY THE
23 BOARD DEMONSTRATING ENTRY-LEVEL COMPETENCY TO PRACTICE AS A
24 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE.

25 (b) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO DOES NOT MEET THE QUALIFICATIONS SET
26 FORTH IN SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION MAY BE QUALIFIED TO
27 REGISTER AS A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE IF THE INDIVIDUAL:

1 (I) IS REGISTERED AS A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN WITH A
2 DESIGNATION AS A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST; AND

3 (II) IN LIEU OF THE EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN
4 SUBSECTION (2)(a)(II) OF THIS SECTION, MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE
5 EQUIVALENT REGISTRATION PATHWAY AS ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD
6 PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-106 (10).

7 (3) **Registration.** ~~Commencing~~ EFFECTIVE January 1, 2026, an
8 individual who practices as a veterinary professional associate in this state
9 must be registered by the board pursuant to this section and rules adopted
10 by the board for the registration of veterinary professional associates.

11 (4) **Rules.** Prior to registering veterinary professional associates
12 pursuant to this section, the board shall establish, by rule:

13 (c) Any information or confirmation required by the supervising
14 licensed veterinarian, INCLUDING THE AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO
15 BETWEEN THE VETERINARIAN AND A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL
16 ASSOCIATE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS SECTION;

17 (c.5) A REGISTRATION FEE FOR THE REGISTRATION OF VETERINARY
18 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES, WHICH FEE SHALL:

19 (I) BE PAID BY AN INDIVIDUAL APPLYING FOR REGISTRATION AS A
20 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE AS PART OF THEIR APPLICATION;
21 AND

22 (II) BE SET AT AN AMOUNT THAT DOES NOT RESULT IN THE
23 COLLECTION OF FEES IN AN AGGREGATE AMOUNT THAT IS GREATER THAN
24 THE AMOUNT OF ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS INCURRED BY THE BOARD IN THE
25 IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ARTICLE 315 RELATED TO VETERINARY
26 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES;

27 (6) (a) BEFORE A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE BEGINS

1 WORKING WITH A SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN, THE
2 SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN AND THE VETERINARY
3 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE SHALL ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT AND FILE
4 THE AGREEMENT WITH THE BOARD. THE AGREEMENT MUST STATE:

5 (I) THAT THE SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN IS
6 RESPONSIBLE AND LIABLE FOR SUPERVISING THE VETERINARY
7 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE AND VERIFYING THAT THE VETERINARY
8 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE HAS THE COMPETENCY TO PRACTICE
9 VETERINARY MEDICINE OR PERFORM ANY TASKS DELEGATED TO THEM BY
10 THE SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN RELATED TO THE PRACTICE OF
11 VETERINARY MEDICINE;

12 (II) THAT THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY ONLY SUPERVISE A
13 SINGLE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE WHO IS PRACTICING
14 VETERINARY MEDICINE AT ANY ONE TIME AND THAT THE VETERINARY
15 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE AND THE SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN
16 MUST BE LOCATED AT THE SAME VETERINARY PREMISES WHILE THE
17 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE IS PRACTICING VETERINARY
18 MEDICINE; AND

19 (III) THE SPECIES FOR WHICH THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL
20 ASSOCIATE HAS RECEIVED EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN THE PRACTICE OF
21 VETERINARY MEDICINE.

22 (b) (I) A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE SHALL ENTER
23 INTO AN AGREEMENT DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (6)(a) OF THIS SECTION
24 WITH EVERY LICENSED VETERINARIAN THAT WILL SUPERVISE THE
25 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE IN THE VETERINARY
26 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE'S PERFORMANCE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE.

27 (II) A SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN SHALL ENTER INTO

1 THE AGREEMENT DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (6)(a) OF THIS SECTION WITH
2 EVERY VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE EMPLOYED AT THE
3 VETERINARY PREMISES THAT THE SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN
4 INTENDS TO SUPERVISE IN THE PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE.

5 **SECTION 13.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-208, **amend**
6 **as they will become effective January 1, 2026,** (1)(a)(I) introductory
7 portion and (1)(a)(I)(B) as follows:

8 **12-315-208. Examination of registrants - behavioral health -**
9 **mental health - physical conditions.** (1) (a) (I) If, upon receipt of a
10 signed complaint by a complainant, the board has reasonable cause to
11 believe that a veterinary technician or veterinary professional associate is
12 unable to practice as a veterinary technician OR VETERINARY
13 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE with reasonable skill and safety to patients or
14 clients due to a physical condition or a behavioral health, mental health,
15 or substance use disorder, the board may require in writing that the
16 veterinary technician or veterinary professional associate submit to an
17 examination to evaluate:

18 (B) Any impact the physical condition or the behavioral health,
19 mental health, or substance use disorder has on the veterinary technician's
20 or veterinary professional associate's ability to practice as a veterinary
21 technician OR VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE with reasonable
22 skill and safety to patients and clients.

23 **SECTION 14.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-209.7,
24 **amend as they will become effective January 1, 2026,** (1), (2), (3)
25 introductory portion, and (4) introductory portion; and **add** (5) as follows:

26 **12-315-209.7. Duties of licensed veterinarian - direction and**
27 **supervision of veterinary professional associate - rules.** (1) Except as

1 provided in subsection (2) of this section, a person practicing
2 VETERINARY MEDICINE as a veterinary professional associate may perform
3 duties and actions authorized pursuant to section 12-315-105 (1)(u) that
4 are within the scope of the veterinary professional associate's ~~advanced~~
5 education and experience if the person ~~performs those duties~~ PRACTICES
6 VETERINARY MEDICINE under the IMMEDIATE OR DIRECT supervision of a
7 licensed veterinarian.

8 (2) A veterinary professional associate shall perform only those
9 duties or actions delegated by the licensed supervising veterinarian, WITH
10 WHOM THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE HAS A SIGNED
11 AGREEMENT FILED WITH THE BOARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION
12 12-315-203.7 (6), for which the veterinary professional associate has the
13 necessary training, ~~and~~ experience, AND COMPETENCY, as determined by
14 the supervising veterinarian, to meet generally accepted standards of
15 veterinary care.

16 (3) If a veterinary professional associate is delegated duties
17 beyond the veterinary professional associate's training, ~~and~~ experience,
18 AND COMPETENCY, the licensed veterinarian:

19 (4) If a veterinary professional associate performs duties beyond
20 the veterinary professional associate's training, ~~and~~ experience, AND
21 COMPETENCY or does not conform with the requirement to perform all
22 duties and actions pursuant to section 12-315-105 (1)(u) under the
23 IMMEDIATE OR DIRECT supervision of a licensed supervising veterinarian
24 as specified in subsection (1) of this section, the veterinary professional
25 associate may be subject to:

26 (5) BEFORE A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE ENGAGES IN
27 THE PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE ON A PATIENT, THE CLIENT MUST

1 SIGN AN INFORMED CONSENT FORM ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE PATIENT
2 WILL BE TREATED BY A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE. THE
3 INFORMED CONSENT FORM MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

4 (a) A STATEMENT THAT THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL
5 ASSOCIATE WILL BE ENGAGING IN THE PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
6 ON THE PATIENT;

7 (b) A STATEMENT THAT THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL
8 ASSOCIATE IS NOT A LICENSED VETERINARIAN; AND

9 (c) THE NAME AND LICENSE NUMBER OF THE LICENSED
10 VETERINARIAN WHO WILL BE SUPERVISING THE VETERINARY
11 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE AND WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VETERINARY
12 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE'S PERFORMANCE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE.

13 **SECTION 15.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-302, **amend**
14 (1) and (3) as follows:

15 **12-315-302. Veterinarian-client-patient relationship -**
16 **telemedicine.** (1) Only a licensed veterinarian may establish AND
17 MAINTAIN a veterinarian-client-patient relationship in this state.

18 (3) An established veterinarian-client-patient relationship may be
19 maintained ONLY BY A LICENSED VETERINARIAN through examinations
20 that occur using telecommunications technology in between appropriate
21 in-person, physical examinations or visits to the premises where the
22 patient is kept.

23 **SECTION 16.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-303, **amend**
24 (1)(a); and **add** (1)(c) as follows:

25 **12-315-303. Treatment of patients using telehealth -**
26 **telemedicine - veterinary professional associate prohibited - licensure**
27 **- technology - consent.** (1) (a) A person must be ~~licensed to practice~~

1 ~~veterinary medicine~~ A LICENSED VETERINARIAN in Colorado in order to
2 practice telemedicine in Colorado.

3 (c) A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE IS NOT PERMITTED
4 TO PRACTICE VETERINARY MEDICINE USING TELEMEDICINE.

5 **SECTION 17.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-307, **add** (3)
6 as follows:

7 **12-315-307. Telesupervision - telesupervision for veterinary**
8 **professional associates practicing veterinary medicine prohibited.**

9 (3) (a) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN SHALL NOT USE TELESUPERVISION TO
10 SUPERVISE A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE WHO IS PRACTICING
11 VETERINARY MEDICINE.

12 (b) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY USE TELESUPERVISION TO
13 SUPERVISE A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE WHO IS PERFORMING
14 VETERINARY TASKS THAT DO NOT CONSTITUTE THE PRACTICE OF
15 VETERINARY MEDICINE IF THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN DELEGATES THE
16 TASKS AND SUPERVISES THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE IN
17 ACCORDANCE WITH SECTIONS 12-315-105.5 AND 12-315-122 AND ANY
18 APPLICABLE BOARD RULES.

19 **SECTION 18.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-30-109, **amend**
20 (2) and (4)(e); and **add** (4)(f.5) as follows:

21 **12-30-109. Prescriptions - limitations - definition - rules.** (2) A
22 prescriber licensed pursuant to article 315 of this title 12 may prescribe
23 opioids and benzodiazepines electronically IN ACCORDANCE WITH
24 SECTION 12-315-305.

25 (4) As used in this section, "prescriber" means:
26 (e) A podiatrist licensed pursuant to article 290 of this title 12; ~~or~~
27 (f.5) A VETERINARIAN LICENSED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 315 OF

1 THIS TITLE 12; OR

2 **SECTION 19.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-72-204, **amend**
3 **as it will become effective January 1, 2026,** (3)(a)(XIV) as follows:

4 **24-72-204. Allowance or denial of inspection - grounds -**
5 **procedure - appeal - definitions - repeal.** (3) (a) The custodian shall
6 deny the right of inspection of the following records, unless otherwise
7 provided by law; except that the custodian shall make any of the
8 following records, other than letters of reference concerning employment,
9 licensing, or issuance of permits, available to the person in interest in
10 accordance with this subsection (3):

11 (XIV) Veterinary medical data, information, and records on
12 individual animals that are owned by private individuals or business
13 entities but are in the custody of a veterinary medical practice or hospital,
14 including the veterinary teaching hospital at Colorado state university,
15 that provides veterinary medical care and treatment to animals. A
16 ~~veterinary-patient-client~~ VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT privilege exists
17 with respect to such data, information, and records only when a person in
18 interest and a LICENSED veterinarian ~~or veterinary professional associate~~
19 ~~enter into a mutual agreement~~ ESTABLISH A
20 VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP, AS DEFINED IN SECTION
21 12-315-104(19), IN ORDER to provide medical treatment for an individual
22 animal and such person in interest maintains an ownership interest in such
23 animal undergoing treatment. ~~For purposes of~~ AS USED IN this subsection
24 (3)(a)(XIV), "person in interest" means the owner of an animal
25 undergoing veterinary medical treatment or such owner's designated
26 representative. Nothing in this subsection (3)(a)(XIV) shall prevent the
27 state agricultural commission, the state agricultural commissioner, or the

1 state board of veterinary medicine from exercising their investigatory and
2 enforcement powers and duties granted pursuant to section 35-1-106
3 (1)(h), article 50 of title 35, and section 12-315-106 (5)(e), respectively.
4 The ~~veterinary-patient-client~~ VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT privilege
5 described in this subsection (3)(a)(XIV), pursuant to section 12-315-120
6 (5), may not be asserted for the purpose of excluding or refusing evidence
7 or testimony in a prosecution for an act of animal cruelty under section
8 18-9-202 or for an act of animal fighting under section 18-9-204.

9 **SECTION 20. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
10 takes effect January 1, 2026; except that, if a referendum petition is filed
11 pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this
12 act or an item, section, or part of this act within the ninety-day period
13 after final adjournment of the general assembly, then the act, item,
14 section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the
15 general election to be held in November 2026 and, in such case, will take
16 effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the
17 governor.