

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT
10/10/23

Bill 1

LLS NO. 24-0357.01 Christopher McMichael x4775 INTERIM COMMITTEE BILL

Water Resources and Agriculture Review Committee

BILL TOPIC: Veterinary Technician Scope Of Practice

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 VETERINARY MEDICINE TASKS TO VETERINARY TECHNICIANS,
106 VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALISTS, OR OTHER PERSONNEL
107 BY A LICENSED VETERINARIAN AND ESTABLISHING A
108 VETERINARY TECHNICIAN 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

*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing law.*

[http://leg.colorado.gov/.](http://leg.colorado.gov/))

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 (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 specialist in accordance with applicable rules of the board, the veterinarian's assessment of the veterinary medical care being provided, and the experience of the person providing the care.

Beginning on January 1, 2026, the bill authorizes a veterinary technician to receive a specialist designation as part of the veterinary technician's registration, grants title protection for specialists, and prohibits the unauthorized practice as a specialist by a person who does not have a 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
12 educated and trained to perform various veterinary services and are often
13 underutilized by supervising veterinarians;

14 (d) Clear guidelines are needed for veterinarians regarding the

1 veterinary services that may be delegated to veterinary technicians and
2 veterinary technician specialists to efficiently and effectively utilize the
3 education, training, and expertise of all veterinary staff and ensure that
4 Colorado's animals have adequate access to veterinary care; and

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

10 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-104, **amend**
11 (6), (10), (10.5), (13), (21), (21.5), and (24); and **add** (5.5), (16.3), (16.5),
12 and (26) as follows:

13 **12-315-104. Definitions.** As used in this article 315, unless the
14 context otherwise requires:

15 (5.5) "DELEGATION" OR "DELEGATE" MEANS A LICENSED
16 VETERINARIAN'S ACT OF ENTRUSTING TO AN INDIVIDUAL THE AUTHORITY
17 TO PERFORM A VETERINARY MEDICINE TASK UNDER THE APPROPRIATE
18 LEVEL OF SUPERVISION BY THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN AFTER THE
19 LICENSED VETERINARIAN HAS DETERMINED THAT THE INDIVIDUAL IS
20 COMPETENT TO PERFORM THE VETERINARY MEDICINE TASK.

21 (6) "Direct supervision" means the supervising licensed
22 veterinarian is readily available on the premises where the patient is being
23 treated AND IS ABLE TO SUPERVISE THE VETERINARY MEDICINE TASKS
24 THAT HAVE BEEN DELEGATED TO AN INDIVIDUAL.

25 (10) "Immediate supervision" means the supervising licensed
26 veterinarian ~~and any person being supervised are in direct contact with the~~
27 ~~patient~~ IS PHYSICALLY IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA ON THE PREMISES AND

1 WITHIN AUDIBLE OR VISUAL RANGE OF THE PATIENT AND THE INDIVIDUAL
2 PERFORMING THE VETERINARY MEDICINE TASKS THAT HAVE BEEN
3 DELEGATED BY THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN.

4 (10.5) "Indirect supervision" means ~~supervision in which the~~
5 ~~supervising licensed veterinarian directs or supervises the authorized~~
6 ~~delegated~~ NEED NOT BE ON THE VETERINARY PREMISES BUT:

7 (a) HAS GIVEN EITHER WRITTEN OR VERBAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR
8 THE ~~treatment or collection of diagnostic information~~ of a patient; at
9 ~~veterinary premises without being on the premises but being~~ AND

10 (b) Is readily available for communication.

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

14 (16.3) "SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN" MEANS A
15 LICENSED VETERINARIAN IN THE STATE WHO DELEGATES AND ASSUMES
16 RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE VETERINARY CARE PROVIDED TO A PATIENT BY
17 AN INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYED BY THE SAME PRACTICE AS THE LICENSED
18 VETERINARIAN AND WORKING UNDER AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF
19 SUPERVISION BY THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN.

20 (16.5) (a) "SUPERVISION" MEANS A LICENSED VETERINARIAN'S
21 OVERSIGHT AND MONITORING OF ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL'S ASSISTANCE IN
22 THE TREATMENT OF ANIMALS AS PART OF THE VETERINARIAN'S PRACTICE
23 OF VETERINARY MEDICINE.

24 (b) "SUPERVISION" INCLUDES:

25 (I) DIRECT SUPERVISION;

26 (II) IMMEDIATE SUPERVISION; AND

27 (III) INDIRECT SUPERVISION.

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

6 (21.5) "Veterinary professional" means a veterinarian licensed
7 pursuant to this part 1 ~~and~~ OR a veterinary technician OR VETERINARY
8 TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST registered pursuant to part 2 of this article 315.

9 (24) "Veterinary technician" means a veterinary technician
10 registered pursuant to ~~part 2 of this article 315~~ SECTION 12-315-203.

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

13 (a) AN ACADEMY RECOGNIZED BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
14 VETERINARY TECHNICIANS IN AMERICA'S COMMITTEE OF VETERINARY
15 TECHNICIAN SPECIALITIES OR ITS SUCCESSOR ORGANIZATION, WHICH
16 ORGANIZATION IS A RECOGNIZED VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST
17 ORGANIZATION; OR

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

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

24 **12-315-105. License requirements and exceptions - definitions**
25 **- rules.** (1) ~~A person~~ AN INDIVIDUAL shall not practice veterinary
26 medicine in this state if the ~~person~~ INDIVIDUAL is not a licensed
27 veterinarian. ~~A person~~ AN INDIVIDUAL shall not practice artificial

1 insemination or ova transplantation of cattle or other animal species in
2 this state except in accordance with RULES ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO
3 section 12-315-106 (5)(c). AN INDIVIDUAL NOT LICENSED AS A
4 VETERINARIAN PURSUANT TO THIS PART 1 SHALL NOT DIAGNOSE, ISSUE
5 PROGNOSSES FOR, PRESCRIBE FOR, AUTHORIZE TREATMENT PLANS FOR, OR
6 PERFORM SURGERY ON AN ANIMAL. This article 315 does not prohibit:

7 (j) Any ~~person~~ INDIVIDUAL from performing duties ~~other than~~
8 ~~diagnosis, prescription, surgery, or initiating treatment~~ under the ~~direction~~
9 ~~and~~ APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF supervision ~~of~~ BY a licensed veterinarian who
10 ~~shall be~~ IS responsible for the ~~person's~~ INDIVIDUAL'S performance IN
11 ACCORDANCE WITH BOARD RULES ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION
12 12-315-105.5 (4);

13 (r) AN INDIVIDUAL ACTING UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A
14 LICENSED VETERINARIAN FROM PROVIDING CARE TO ANIMALS LOCATED AT
15 AN ANIMAL SHELTER THAT ARE THE PROPERTY OF AN ANIMAL SHELTER IF:

16 (I) THE INDIVIDUAL IS PERFORMING TASKS IN COMPLIANCE WITH
17 A WRITTEN OR VERBAL PROTOCOL PROVIDED BY THE SUPERVISING
18 LICENSED VETERINARIAN; AND

19 (II) THE SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN HAS DETERMINED
20 THE INDIVIDUAL HAS RECEIVED SUFFICIENT AND PROPER TRAINING; OR

21 (s) AN INDIVIDUAL FROM PERFORMING ACCEPTED ANIMAL
22 HUSBANDRY ON LIVESTOCK AS THOSE TERMS ARE DEFINED IN SECTION
23 35-42-103 IF:

24 (I) THE INDIVIDUAL IS AN OWNER OF AN ANIMAL OR IS AN
25 INDIVIDUAL ACTING UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE OWNER OF THE ANIMAL
26 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1)(f)(I) OF THIS SECTION; OR

27 (II) THE INDIVIDUAL ACTS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A LICENSED

1 VETERINARIAN AND:

2 (A) THE SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN HAS ESTABLISHED
3 A VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LIVESTOCK
4 AND ITS OWNER;

5 (B) THE INDIVIDUAL IS PERFORMING TASKS IN COMPLIANCE WITH
6 A WRITTEN OR VERBAL PROTOCOL DEVELOPED BY THE SUPERVISING
7 LICENSED VETERINARIAN; AND

8 (C) THE SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN HAS DETERMINED
9 THE INDIVIDUAL PERFORMING THE TASKS HAS RECEIVED SUFFICIENT AND
10 PROPER TRAINING.

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

23 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 12-315-105.5 as
24 follows:

25 **12-315-105.5. Delegation to and supervision of veterinary**
26 **technicians, veterinary technician specialists, and other qualified**
27 **personnel - rules.** (1) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY DELEGATE

1 VETERINARY MEDICINE TASKS AND DUTIES TO VETERINARY TECHNICIANS
2 OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALISTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS
3 SECTION AND RULES THAT THE BOARD ADOPTS PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION
4 (4) OF THIS SECTION. THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY DELEGATE
5 VETERINARY MEDICINE TASKS AND DUTIES NOT LISTED IN THIS SECTION TO
6 OTHER QUALIFIED PERSONNEL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION.

7 (2) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN SHALL ESTABLISH A
8 VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP WITH AN ANIMAL OR
9 GROUP OF ANIMALS AND THE OWNER OF THE ANIMAL OR GROUP OF
10 ANIMALS BEFORE THE VETERINARIAN DELEGATES A VETERINARY MEDICINE
11 TASK TO A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN, A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN
12 SPECIALIST, OR OTHER QUALIFIED PERSONNEL.

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

17 (a) THE LEVEL OF EDUCATION, SKILLS, TRAINING, LICENSING, AND
18 EXPERIENCE OF THE VETERINARY TECHNICIAN, THE VETERINARY
19 TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST, OR OTHER QUALIFIED PERSONNEL;

20 (b) THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF SUPERVISION FOR THE DELEGATED
21 VETERINARY MEDICINE TASK PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS
22 SECTION AND APPLICABLE RULES ADOPTED BY THE BOARD PURSUANT TO
23 SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION; AND

24 (c) WHETHER THE DELEGATION OF THE VETERINARY MEDICINE
25 TASK COMPLIES WITH ALL APPLICABLE STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS.

26 (4) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2025, THE BOARD SHALL ADOPT
27 RULES REGARDING THE FOLLOWING VETERINARY MEDICINE TASKS THAT

1 A LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY DELEGATE TO A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN
2 OR A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST AND THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL
3 OF SUPERVISION FOR A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN OR A VETERINARY
4 TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST TO PERFORM THOSE TASKS:

5 (a) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY DELEGATE THE FOLLOWING
6 TASKS TO A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN
7 SPECIALIST WHO IS UNDER THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN'S IMMEDIATE
8 SUPERVISION:

9 (I) ASSISTING IN SURGICAL PROCEDURES; AND

10 (II) THE PLACEMENT OF ABDOMINAL, THORACIC,
11 ESOPHAGOSTOMY, OR PERCUTANEOUS ENDOSCOPIC GASTROSTOMY TUBES;

12 (b) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY DELEGATE THE FOLLOWING
13 TASKS TO A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN
14 SPECIALIST WHO IS UNDER THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN'S IMMEDIATE OR
15 DIRECT SUPERVISION:

16 (I) DENTAL PROCEDURES, INCLUDING:

17 (A) REMOVING CALCULUS, SOFT DEPOSITS, PLAQUE, AND STAINS;

18 (B) SMOOTHING, FILING, AND POLISHING OF TEETH;

19 (C) SINGLE ROOT EXTRACTIONS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE
20 SECTIONING OF THE TOOTH OR SECTIONING OF THE BONE; AND

21 (D) SUTURING A GINGIVAL INCISION;

22 (II) EUTHANASIA; AND

23 (III) PLACEMENT OF EPIDURAL AND INTRAOSSEOUS CATHETERS;

24 (c) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY DELEGATE THE FOLLOWING
25 TASKS TO A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN
26 SPECIALIST WHO IS UNDER THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN'S IMMEDIATE,
27 DIRECT, OR INDIRECT SUPERVISION:

1 (I) UNLESS PROHIBITED BY STATE OR FEDERAL LAW, THE
2 ADMINISTRATION AND APPLICATION OF TREATMENTS, INCLUDING:

3 (A) PRESCRIPTION DRUGS;

4 (B) MEDICATIONS;

5 (C) CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES;

6 (D) ENEMAS; AND

7 (E) BIOLOGICAL IMMUNOLOGICAL AGENTS;

8 (II) INTRAVENOUS AND INTRA-ARTERIAL CATHETERIZATIONS AND
9 MAINTENANCE;

10 (III) IMAGING, INCLUDING RADIOGRAPHY, ULTRASONOGRAPHY,
11 COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY, MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING, AND
12 FLUOROSCOPY AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF RADIOPAQUE AGENTS OR
13 MATERIALS;

14 (IV) UNLESS PROHIBITED BY STATE OR FEDERAL LAW, THE
15 COLLECTION OF:

16 (A) BLOOD;

17 (B) CELLULAR OR MICROBIOLOGICAL SAMPLES THROUGH SKIN
18 SCRAPINGS, IMPRESSIONS, OR OTHER NONSURGICAL METHODS; AND

19 (C) URINE THROUGH BLADDER EXPRESSION, UNOBSTRUCTED
20 CATHETERIZATION, OR INSERTION OF AN INDWELLING URINARY CATHETER;

21 (V) MONITORING OF:

22 (A) AN ELECTROCARDIOGRAM, OR "EKG";

23 (B) BLOOD PRESSURE; AND

24 (C) CARBON DIOXIDE AND BLOOD OXYGEN SATURATION;

25 (VI) CLINICAL LABORATORY TEST PROCEDURES;

26 (VII) HANDLING AND DISPOSING OF BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE
27 MATERIALS;

- 1 (VIII) IMPLANTATION OF A SUBCUTANEOUS MICROCHIP;
2 (IX) LASER THERAPY;
3 (X) 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) EAR FLUSHING WITH PRESSURE OR SUCTION;
17 (XIX) FLUID ASPIRATION FROM A BODY CAVITY OR ORGAN;
18 (XX) SUTURING, STAPLING, OR GLUING AN EXISTING SURGICAL
19 SKIN INCISION OR SKIN LACERATION NOT PENETRATING A JOINT OR BODY
20 CAVITY, INCLUDING MINOR WOUND MANAGEMENT AND DEBRIDEMENT;
21 (XXI) PLACEMENT OF NASAL CATHETERS; AND
22 (XXII) EMERGENCY PATIENT CARE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED
23 TO:
24 (A) APPLICATION OF TOURNIQUETS OR PRESSURE PROCEDURES TO
25 CONTROL HEMORRHAGE;
26 (B) APPLICATION OF APPROPRIATE WOUND DRESSINGS;
27 (C) RESUSCITATIVE OXYGEN PROCEDURES;

1 (D) ANTI-SEIZURE TREATMENT;

2 (E) SUPPORTIVE TREATMENT IN HEAT PROSTRATION CASES;

3 (F) ADMINISTRATION OF A DRUG, CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE, OR
4 PARENTERAL FLUIDS TO MANAGE AND CONTROL PAIN, PREVENT FURTHER
5 INJURY, PREVENT OR CONTROL SHOCK, OR PREVENT THE SUFFERING OF AN
6 ANIMAL, UP TO AND INCLUDING EUTHANASIA; AND

7 (G) INITIATION AND PERFORMANCE OF CARDIOPULMONARY
8 RESUSCITATION, OR "CPR", INCLUDING ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION
9 AND DEFIBRILLATION, AND IMMEDIATE POST-RESUSCITATION CARE.

10 (d) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY DELEGATE TO A VETERINARY
11 TECHNICIAN OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST WITH ADVANCED
12 EXPERIENCE, AS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD BY RULE, WHO IS UNDER THE
13 LICENSED VETERINARIAN'S IMMEDIATE, DIRECT, OR INDIRECT SUPERVISION
14 THE TREATMENT OF MINOR MEDICAL CONDITIONS, AS DETERMINED BY THE
15 LICENSED VETERINARIAN WITH A VALID AND CURRENT
16 VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP FOR A PATIENT, THAT
17 ARISE FOR THE PATIENT IF:

18 (I) THE TREATMENT IS PERFORMED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE
19 LICENSED VETERINARIAN UNDER A MINIMUM OF INDIRECT SUPERVISION
20 AND UNDER PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED WRITTEN PROTOCOLS; AND

21 (II) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN WILL BE ABLE TO STEP IN TO
22 PERFORM THE TREATMENT IF IT IS DETERMINED THAT THE CONDITION OF
23 THE PATIENT REQUIRES CARE BEYOND THE ABILITIES OF THE VETERINARY
24 TECHNICIAN OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST.

25 (5) THE BOARD SHALL REVIEW AND UPDATE THE RULES
26 PROMULGATED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION AS
27 NECESSARY TO ACCOUNT FOR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PRACTICE OF

1 VETERINARY MEDICINE AND VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY.

2 (6) A SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY DELEGATE
3 VETERINARY MEDICINE TASKS THAT ARE NOT LISTED IN SUBSECTION (4) OF
4 THIS SECTION TO:

5 (a) A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN
6 SPECIALIST IF THE PERFORMANCE OF SUCH TASKS IS WITHIN THE
7 VETERINARY TECHNICIAN'S OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST'S
8 TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE AND IS NOT IN CONFLICT WITH THIS SECTION
9 OR OTHER STATE OR FEDERAL LAW; AND

10 (b) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS NOT A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN OR
11 VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST IF THE INDIVIDUAL IS WORKING
12 UNDER THE IMMEDIATE OR DIRECT SUPERVISION OF THE SUPERVISING
13 LICENSED VETERINARIAN WHEN PERFORMING THE VETERINARY MEDICINE
14 TASKS.

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

17 **12-315-106. Board of veterinary medicine - creation - powers**
18 **- rules.** (5) The board has the power to:

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

23 (b) Pursuant to section 12-20-404, issue, renew, deny, suspend, or
24 revoke licenses to practice veterinary medicine, ~~or~~ registrations of
25 veterinary technicians, AND DESIGNATIONS OF REGISTERED VETERINARY
26 TECHNICIANS AS VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALISTS in the state or
27 otherwise discipline or fine, or both, licensees or registrants consistent

1 with this article 315 and the rules adopted by the board under this article
2 315;

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

5 **12-315-110. License renewal - waiver - rules - continuing**
6 **education.** (3) (a) (II) The board-approved continuing educational
7 program must:

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

10 (B) Permit a licensee to take up to sixteen hours of continuing
11 education courses in nonbiomedical topics, which topics may include
12 client communication, management, leadership, and other topics that
13 support veterinary practice and a highly functional veterinary workforce;
14 AND

15 (C) REQUIRE TWO HOURS EACH LICENSING PERIOD ON TOPICS
16 RELATED TO THE DELEGATION OF VETERINARY MEDICINE TASKS AND THE
17 SUPERVISION OF VETERINARY TECHNICIANS, VETERINARY TECHNICIAN
18 SPECIALISTS, AND OTHER PERSONNEL.

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

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

1 (ee) Failure to properly supervise a veterinary student, a veterinary
2 student preceptor, a veterinary technician, ~~or~~ A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN
3 SPECIALIST, other veterinary staff, OR OTHER INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE
4 PERFORMING VETERINARY MEDICINE TASKS UNDER A LICENSED
5 VETERINARIAN'S SUPERVISION;

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

9 **12-315-201. Additional board duties - rules - repeal.** (1) In
10 addition to any other duties specified in this part 2, ~~or section 12-315-106~~
11 SECTION 12-315-105.5, AND SECTION 12-315-106, the board shall:

12 (c) APPROVE NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED VETERINARY TECHNICIAN
13 SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE PURPOSES OF
14 DESIGNATING VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALISTS IN THIS STATE; AND

15 (d) ADOPT ANY RULES NECESSARY FOR THE PRACTICE AND
16 SUPERVISION OF VETERINARY TECHNICIANS AND VETERINARY TECHNICIAN
17 SPECIALISTS.

18 (1.5) THE BOARD SHALL NOT:

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

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

27 (2) If the board does not approve a credentialing organization for

1 purposes of credentialing veterinary technicians OR VETERINARY
2 TECHNICIAN SPECIALISTS in this state pursuant to subsection (1)(a) OR
3 (1)(c) of this section because there is no credentialing organization that
4 meets the requirements set forth in subsections (1)(a)(I) to (1)(a)(IV) OR
5 SUBSECTION (1)(c) of this section or for any other reason, the board shall
6 establish by rule and administer a credentialing process for veterinary
7 technician registration OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST
8 DESIGNATION pursuant to this part 2.

9 **SECTION 9.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-203, **add**
10 (4.5) as follows:

11 **12-315-203. Application for veterinary technician registration**
12 **- qualifications - provisional registration - fee - veterinary technician**
13 **specialist designation - rules - repeal.** (4.5) (a) ON AND AFTER JANUARY
14 1, 2026, A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN MAY APPLY TO THE BOARD FOR
15 DESIGNATION AS A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST AS PART OF AN
16 APPLICATION FOR A NEW OR A RENEWAL REGISTRATION AS A VETERINARY
17 TECHNICIAN.

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

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

26 (II) AN ORGANIZATION THAT THE BOARD HAS DETERMINED BY
27 RULE TO HAVE EQUIVALENT TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

1 PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-201 (1)(c).

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

4 **12-315-204. Use of title restricted.** (1) On and after January 1,
5 2024, only ~~a person~~ AN INDIVIDUAL who is registered pursuant to ~~this part~~
6 ~~2~~ SECTION 12-315-203 may use the title "veterinary technician" or
7 "registered veterinary technician" or the initials "VT" or "RVT".

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

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

15 **12-315-206. Expiration, renewal, reinstatement, or**
16 **reactivation of a registration - inactive status - rules - definition.**

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

23 (b) THE BOARD SHALL NOT RENEW A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN'S
24 DESIGNATION AS A SPECIALIST OBTAINED PURSUANT TO SECTION
25 12-315-203 (4.5) UNLESS THE VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST
26 DEMONSTRATES TO THE BOARD'S SATISFACTION THAT THE VETERINARY
27 TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST HAS SATISFIED THE CONTINUING EDUCATION

1 REQUIREMENTS OF THE CREDENTIALING ORGANIZATION THAT ARE
2 NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN AN ACTIVE DESIGNATION OR CERTIFICATION AS
3 A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST.

4 **SECTION 12.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-207, **amend**
5 (1) introductory portion, (1)(e), and (1)(n) as follows:

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

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

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

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

24 **12-315-209. Duties of licensed veterinarian - supervision of**
25 **veterinary technicians and veterinary technician specialists - rules.**

26 (1) A veterinary technician OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST is
27 authorized to provide care to animals WITHIN THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE AND

1 under the ~~direction and~~ APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF supervision, as defined
2 DETERMINED by the board by rule of PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-105.5
3 (4), BY a licensed veterinarian who is responsible for the veterinary
4 technician's OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST'S performance. The
5 licensed veterinarian ~~directing~~ DELEGATING TASKS TO and supervising the
6 veterinary technician OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST is
7 responsible for the care of the animal.

8 (2) Nothing in this part 2 prohibits a person who is not a
9 veterinary technician OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST pursuant
10 to this part 2 from performing tasks relating to animal care under the
11 ~~direction and~~ APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF supervision of BY a licensed
12 veterinarian who is responsible for the care of the animal.

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

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

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

- 1 November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
- 2 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.