

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-fourth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT  
10/10/23

Bill 7

LLS NO. 24-0363.01 Christopher McMichael x4775 INTERIM COMMITTEE BILL

**Water Resources and Agriculture Review Committee**

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**BILL TOPIC:** Providing Veterinary Services Through Telehealth

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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

*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.  
Dashes through the words 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 telemedicine 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 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, 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 or other caretaker has agreed to follow  
11 the instruction of the veterinarian;



VETERINARY SERVICES

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

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

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

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

(4) (a) "TELEHEALTH" MEANS THE USE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY TO COLLECT AND DELIVER VETERINARY HEALTH INFORMATION OR EDUCATION VIRTUALLY AND CAN ENCOMPASS GENERAL VETERINARY HEALTH ADVICE OR PATIENT-SPECIFIC VETERINARY HEALTH CARE.

(b) "TELEHEALTH" MAY INCLUDE TELE-ADVICE, TELECONSULTING, TELE-EDUCATION, TELEMEDICINE, TELEMONITORING, TELEREFERRAL, TELESUPERVISION, TELETRIAGE, AND OTHER TOOLS THAT HELP VETERINARY PROFESSIONALS DELIVER VETERINARY EDUCATION AND HEALTH CARE VIRTUALLY.

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

6           (6) "TELEMONITORING" OR "REMOTE MONITORING" MEANS THE  
7 USE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY TO AUGMENT VETERINARY  
8 HEALTH CARE BY COLLECTING AND DELIVERING HEALTH INFORMATION  
9 FROM A PATIENT.

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

15           (8) "TELESUPERVISION" MEANS THE SUPERVISION OF INDIVIDUALS  
16 PROVIDING VETERINARY HEALTH CARE USING MEDIA SUCH AS AUDIO,  
17 AUDIO-VISUAL CONFERENCING, TEXT MESSAGING, E-MAIL, OR OTHER  
18 VIRTUAL OR DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES.

19           (9) "TELETRIAGE" MEANS THE SAFE, APPROPRIATE, AND TIMELY  
20 ASSESSMENT OF AN ANIMAL, OR A GROUP OF ANIMALS, UNDER CONDITIONS  
21 OF UNCERTAINTY AND URGENCY, AND THE POSSIBLE REFERRAL TO A  
22 LICENSED VETERINARIAN, AFTER DISCUSSION WITH THE INDIVIDUAL  
23 RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ANIMAL OR GROUP OF ANIMALS, USING  
24 TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY. A VETERINARY-CLIENT-PATIENT  
25 RELATIONSHIP IS NOT REQUIRED FOR SUCH AN ASSESSMENT OR REFERRAL.  
26 "TELETRIAGE" DOES NOT INCLUDE THE RENDERING OF A DIAGNOSIS.

27           (10) "VETERINARY SPECIALIST" MEANS A VETERINARIAN WHO IS

1 FORMALLY RECOGNIZED AS A SPECIALIST FROM A SPECIALTY  
2 ORGANIZATION THAT IS RECOGNIZED BY THE AMERICAN VETERINARY  
3 MEDICAL ASSOCIATION'S AMERICAN BOARD OF VETERINARY  
4 SPECIALTIES, OR ITS SUCCESSOR ORGANIZATION, OR ANOTHER  
5 ASSOCIATION THAT RECOGNIZES VETERINARY SPECIALISTS THAT THE  
6 STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE HAS APPROVED BY RULE.

7 **12-315-302. Veterinarian-client-patient relationship -**  
8 **telemedicine.** (1) ONLY A LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY ESTABLISH A  
9 VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP IN THIS STATE.

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

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

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

22 **12-315-303. Treatment of patients using telehealth -**  
23 **telemedicine - licensure - technology - consent.** (1) (a) A PERSON MUST  
24 BE LICENSED TO PRACTICE VETERINARY MEDICINE IN COLORADO IN ORDER  
25 TO PRACTICE TELEMEDICINE IN COLORADO.

26 (b) A PERSON WHO IS NOT A LICENSED VETERINARIAN IN  
27 COLORADO AND WHO USES TELEMEDICINE TO PROVIDE VETERINARY

1 SERVICES TO ANIMALS AND INDIVIDUALS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ANIMALS  
2 ENGAGES IN THE UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE.  
3 SUCH PERSON IS SUBJECT TO PENALTIES FOR THE UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE  
4 OF VETERINARY MEDICINE PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-114.

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

10 (3) A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL SHALL ENSURE THAT THE  
11 TECHNOLOGY USED WHEN PROVIDING VETERINARY SERVICES THROUGH  
12 TELEHEALTH IS OF APPROPRIATE QUALITY TO ENSURE:

13 (a) ACCURACY OF THE REMOTE ASSESSMENT OF THE PATIENT'S  
14 CONDITION OR BEHAVIOR;

15 (b) CLEAR COMMUNICATION WITH CLIENTS; AND

16 (c) COMPLIANCE WITH ALL RELEVANT PRIVACY AND  
17 CONFIDENTIALITY REQUIREMENTS.

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

22 (b) A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL USING TELEHEALTH TO PROVIDE  
23 VETERINARY SERVICES SHALL INFORM THE CLIENT, OR THE CLIENT'S  
24 AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE, OF:

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

27 (II) WHETHER, IN THE VETERINARIAN'S PROFESSIONAL OPINION,

1 THE PATIENT'S CONDITION CAN BE ACCURATELY DIAGNOSED OR TREATED  
2 USING TELEMEDICINE; AND

3 (III) THE DIAGNOSIS, PROGNOSIS, AND TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR  
4 THE PATIENT.

5 **12-315-304. Standard of care.** (1) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN  
6 USING TELEHEALTH TO PROVIDE VETERINARY SERVICES SHALL CONDUCT  
7 ALL NECESSARY PATIENT EVALUATIONS AND TREATMENT USING THE  
8 APPLICABLE STANDARD OF CARE FOR THOSE EVALUATIONS AND  
9 TREATMENTS.

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

13 **12-315-305. Prescribing medication through telemedicine.**

14 (1) (a) ONLY A LICENSED VETERINARIAN WITH AN ESTABLISHED  
15 VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP MAY PRESCRIBE  
16 MEDICATION THROUGH TELEMEDICINE.

17 (b) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN SHALL USE PROFESSIONAL  
18 JUDGMENT WHEN DETERMINING IF IT IS APPROPRIATE TO PRESCRIBE  
19 MEDICATION THROUGH TELEMEDICINE.

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

23 **12-315-306. Telereferral.** (1) A VETERINARIAN WITH AN  
24 ESTABLISHED VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP MAY REFER  
25 A PATIENT TO A VETERINARY SPECIALIST.

26 (2) A VETERINARY SPECIALIST TO WHOM A PATIENT IS REFERRED  
27 MAY PROVIDE VETERINARY MEDICINE SERVICES USING



1 TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY FOR THE PATIENT AND CLIENT  
2 UNDER THE REFERRING VETERINARIAN'S VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT  
3 RELATIONSHIP.

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

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

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

16 **12-315-307. Telesupervision.** (1) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN  
17 MAY PROVIDE, AT THE VETERINARIAN'S DISCRETION, TELESUPERVISION  
18 FOR VETERINARY SERVICES THAT DO NOT REQUIRE DIRECT OR IMMEDIATE  
19 SUPERVISION.

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

24 (a) THE SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN AND THE  
25 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL OR OTHER VETERINARY PERSONNEL ARE  
26 EMPLOYEES OF THE SAME VETERINARY PRACTICE; AND

27 (b) THE VETERINARY PREMISES, VETERINARY PROFESSIONALS OR

1 OTHER VETERINARY PERSONNEL, AND PATIENT ARE LOCATED IN  
2 COLORADO.

3 **12-315-308. Emergency care - continuity of care.** (1) A  
4 LICENSED VETERINARIAN WHO PRACTICES VETERINARY MEDICINE  
5 THROUGH TELEMEDICINE SHALL BE AVAILABLE IN PERSON AT A  
6 VETERINARY PREMISES THAT IS ACCESSIBLE TO THE CLIENT AND PATIENT  
7 OR SHALL ARRANGE FOR ANOTHER LICENSED VETERINARIAN IN COLORADO  
8 TO BE AT A VETERINARY PREMISES THAT IS ACCESSIBLE TO THE CLIENT  
9 AND PATIENT IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY OR FOR NECESSARY FOLLOW-UP  
10 EVALUATIONS.

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

14 **12-315-309. Medical records - definition.** (1) AS USED IN THIS  
15 SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES, "ANIMAL CARE  
16 PROVIDER" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 12-315-119 (1).

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

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

26 **12-315-310. Confidentiality and privacy.** A LICENSED  
27 VETERINARIAN SHALL ENSURE THAT A CLIENT'S PRIVACY AND

1 CONFIDENTIALITY ARE PROTECTED WHEN THE VETERINARIAN IS PROVIDING  
2 VETERINARY SERVICES USING TELEHEALTH PURSUANT TO THE  
3 VETERINARIAN'S PROFESSIONAL AND LEGAL OBLIGATIONS.

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