



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Fiscal Note

Drafting Number: LLS 24-0357
Prime Sponsors:

Date: October 19, 2023
Bill Status: Bill Request
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Bill Topic: **VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SCOPE OF PRACTICE**

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

| | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue | <input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer | <input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity |

The bill requires the Department of Regulatory Agencies to promulgate rules allowing veterinarians to delegate certain tasks to veterinary technicians and veterinary technician specialists, and allows veterinary technicians to receive a specialist designation. The bill increases state workload starting in FY 2024-25.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the bill draft requested by the Water Resources and Agriculture Review Committee.

Summary of Legislation

The bill allows veterinary technicians to receive a designation as a veterinary technician specialist (VTS) starting January 1, 2026, and provides title protection for VTSs. Prior to this date, the bill requires the Board of Veterinary Medicine in the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) to establish a process for credentialing VTSs. DORA is prohibited from charging an additional fee for registration as a VTS, or charging a higher registration fee for specialists than for veterinary technicians (VTs).

Additionally, the bill codifies a framework for the supervision and delegation of veterinary care by veterinarians to VTs and VTSs and requires that continuing education must include topics related to delegation of veterinary tasks. DORA must promulgate rules concerning the supervision and delegation of veterinary care.

Comparable Crime Analysis

Legislative Council Staff is required to include certain information in the fiscal note for any bill that creates a new crime, changes the classification of an existing crime, or creates a new factual basis for an existing crime. The following section outlines crimes that are comparable to the offense in this bill and discusses assumptions on future rates of criminal convictions resulting from the bill.

Prior conviction data and assumptions. This bill creates the new offense of unauthorized practice as a veterinary technician specialist, a class 2 misdemeanor. To form an estimate on the prevalence of this new crime, the fiscal note analyzed the existing offense of unauthorized practice as a veterinary technician as a comparable crime. From FY 2020-21 to FY 2022-23, two offenders have been sentenced and convicted for this existing offense. Based on the low number of convictions for this existing crime, the fiscal note assumes that there will be minimal or no additional case filings or convictions for the new offense under the bill. Because the bill is not expected to have a tangible impact on criminal justice-related expenditures or revenue at the state or local levels, these potential impacts are not discussed further in this fiscal note.

State Expenditures

The bill increases workload in DORA starting in FY 2024-25 to conduct outreach and education, promulgate rules regarding VTSs and the appropriate supervision and delegation of veterinary care tasks, and issue VTS designations. This increase is absorbable within existing resources, and no change in appropriations is required.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Agriculture

Judicial

Regulatory Agencies