

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 87th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2009

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2240

4  
5 By: Representative Adcock  
6  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8  
9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINING  
10 BOARD LAW TO ALLOW MUNICIPAL ANIMAL SHELTERS TO  
11 PROVIDE SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC IN CERTAIN  
12 CIRCUMSTANCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
13

## Subtitle

14  
15 TO AMEND THE VETERINARY MEDICAL  
16 EXAMINING BOARD LAW TO ALLOW MUNICIPAL  
17 ANIMAL SHELTERS TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO  
18 THE PUBLIC IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.  
19  
20

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
22

23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-101-203 is amended to read as follows:  
24 17-101-203. Powers and duties.

25 The Veterinary Medical Examining Board ~~shall have the power to~~ may:

26 (1) (A) Examine and determine the qualifications and fitness of  
27 ~~applicants~~ an applicant for a license to practice general veterinary medicine  
28 or any specialty area thereof, and the certification of veterinary  
29 technicians in Arkansas, ~~and issue, renew, deny, suspend, or revoke licenses~~  
30 ~~or certificates, or otherwise discipline veterinarians or veterinary~~  
31 ~~technicians; and~~

32 (B) Issue, renew, deny, suspend, or revoke licenses or  
33 certificates, or otherwise discipline veterinarians or veterinary  
34 technicians;

35 (2) Subpoena witnesses and take testimony bearing on the records  
36 of applicants for permits or for licenses to practice veterinary medicine in



1 the State of Arkansas;

2 (3) Establish annually a schedule of license and permit fees  
 3 based on the board's financial requirements for the ensuing year;

4 (4) Conduct investigations into matters brought before the board  
 5 and proceed on the board's own motion to a hearing or other disciplinary  
 6 action;

7 (5) Employ personnel necessary to carry out its duties;

8 (6) Purchase or rent necessary office space, equipment, and  
 9 supplies;

10 (7)(A) Promulgate and enforce ~~regulations~~ rules necessary to  
 11 establish recognized standards for the practice of veterinary medicine and to  
 12 carry out the provisions of this chapter.

13 (B) The board shall make available to interested members  
 14 of the public copies of this chapter and all ~~regulations~~ rules promulgated by  
 15 the board;

16 (8) Examine and evaluate qualifications of education, skill, and  
 17 experience for certification of a person as a veterinary technician and for  
 18 annual registration of employment;

19 (9)(A) Regulate all veterinarians in a corporate practice and  
 20 prevent corporate or noncorporate holdings from being sold to, directed by,  
 21 or controlled by a nonveterinarian+.

22 (B)(i) The board shall allow by rule a municipally owned  
 23 animal shelter to provide veterinarian services to the public for a fee if:

24 (a) Approved by ordinance of the governing  
 25 body of the municipality; and

26 (b) The owner of the animal to be given  
 27 veterinarian services by the animal shelter has income below two hundred  
 28 fifty percent (250%) of the federal poverty level.

29 (ii) A veterinarian under subdivision (9)(B)(i) of  
 30 this section shall control his or her practice of veterinary medicine;

31 (10)(A) Hold hearings on all matters properly brought before the  
 32 board and, in connection thereto, administer oaths, receive evidence, make  
 33 the necessary determinations, and enter orders consistent with the findings.

34 (B) The board may require by subpoena the attendance and  
 35 testimony of witnesses and the production of papers, records, or other  
 36 documentary evidence and commission depositions; and

1 (11) Bring proceedings in the courts for the enforcement of this  
2 chapter or any ~~regulations~~ rules made ~~pursuant thereto~~ under this chapter.

3  
4 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
5 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the cat and dog populations in  
6 Arkansas are expanding exponentially; that the recent downturn in the economy  
7 is contributing to the unwanted cat and dog problem since animal owners have  
8 less funds available to care for their animals; and that this act is  
9 immediately necessary because it will allow municipal animal shelters to  
10 provide veterinarian services to the public in certain circumstances.  
11 Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately  
12 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall  
13 become effective on:

14 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

15 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,  
16 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the  
17 bill; or

18 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is  
19 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36