

1 State of Arkansas As Engrossed: H1/31/23 H2/2/23 S2/15/23

2 94th General Assembly

A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2023

HOUSE BILL 1182

4

5 By: Representatives Vaught, Wardlaw

6 By: Senator Hill

7

8

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO PROVIDE CLARITY REGARDING THE CERTIFICATION
10 OF A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST; TO AUTHORIZE A
11 COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN A
12 VETERINARIAN AND A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST;
13 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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15

16

Subtitle

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TO PROVIDE CLARITY REGARDING THE

18

CERTIFICATION OF A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN

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SPECIALIST; AND TO AUTHORIZE A

20

COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN

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A VETERINARIAN AND A VETERINARY

22

TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST.

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25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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27 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-101-102, concerning definitions within
28 the Arkansas Veterinary Medical Practice Act, is amended to add additional
29 subdivisions to read as follows:

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(18) "Collaborative practice agreement" means a written plan

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that identifies a veterinarian and a veterinary technician specialist who

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agree to collaborate together in the joint management of the health care of

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the veterinarian's animal patients and that outlines procedures for

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consultation with or referral to the collaborating veterinarian or other

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healthcare professionals as indicated by an animal patient's healthcare

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needs;



1 (19) "Collaborating veterinarian" means a veterinarian licensed
2 under this chapter who enters into a collaborative practice agreement with a
3 veterinary technician specialist and who resides and practices in this state;
4 and

5 (20) "Specialized veterinary technology" means the performance
6 of all aspects of medical care, services, diagnosis, prognosis, and the
7 administration of appliances and prescribed drugs, medications, and treatment
8 of an animal patient under the direct supervision, indirect supervision, or
9 immediate supervision of a collaborating veterinarian.

10
11 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 17-101-306(i)-(j), concerning the
12 certification of veterinary technicians, veterinary technologists, and
13 veterinary technician specialists, are amended to read as follows:

14 *(i) A veterinary technician, veterinary technologist, or veterinary*
15 *technician specialist shall not receive a fee or other compensation for*
16 *veterinary services or veterinary technology services other than the salary*
17 *or other compensation paid to the veterinary technician, veterinary*
18 *technologist, or veterinary technician specialist by the veterinary clinic,*
19 *veterinary practice, or veterinarian by which he or she is employed.*

20 ~~(j)(1) The Veterinary Medical Examining Board may issue additional~~
21 ~~certifications for a veterinary technician specialist.~~

22 ~~(2) For an applicant seeking certification as a veterinary~~
23 ~~technician specialist, the Veterinary Medical Examining Board may require an~~
24 ~~initial application, application fee as determined by the Veterinary Medical~~
25 ~~Examining Board, renewal application, renewal application fee as determined~~
26 ~~by the Veterinary Medical Examining Board, and any other relevant information~~
27 ~~determined by the Veterinary Medical Examining Board.~~

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29 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 17-101-310, concerning required continuing
30 education under the Arkansas Veterinary Medical Practice Act, is amended to
31 add an additional subsection to read as follows:

32 (d)(1) A veterinary technician specialist shall complete an additional
33 eight (8) hours of advanced continuing education in his or her area of
34 specialty each year before veterinary technician specialist certification
35 renewal.

36 (2) A veterinary technician specialist shall maintain an active

1 veterinary technician certification in this state and fulfill all continuing
2 education hours required for the veterinary technician certification.

3
4 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code Title 17, Chapter 101, Subchapter 3, is
5 amended to add additional sections to read as follows:

6 17-101-319. Veterinary technician specialist – Certification.

7 (a)(1) The Veterinary Medical Examining Board shall issue additional
8 certifications for a veterinary technician specialist.

9 (2) For an applicant seeking certification as a veterinary
10 technician specialist, the board may require:

11 (A) An initial application and an initial application fee
12 as determined by the board;

13 (B) A renewal application and a renewal application fee as
14 determined by the board; and

15 (C) Any other relevant information determined by the
16 board.

17 (b)(1) A veterinary technician specialist shall perform specialized
18 veterinary technology under the direction, supervision, and responsibility of
19 the:

20 (A) Licensed veterinarian with whom he or she is employed;
21 or

22 (B) Collaborating veterinarian under a collaborative
23 practice agreement.

24 (2) Supervision of a veterinary technician specialist may be
25 direct supervision, indirect supervision, or immediate supervision.

26 (3) A veterinarian who utilizes indirect supervision of a
27 veterinary technician specialist shall:

28 (A) Retain control of and authority over the care of the
29 animal patient; and

30 (B) Review all record keeping and notes documented by the
31 veterinary technician specialist on the charts regarding the care of the
32 animal patient.

33 (c)(1) A licensed veterinarian using, supervising, or employing a
34 veterinary technician specialist is individually responsible and liable for
35 the performance of the acts and omissions delegated to the veterinary
36 technician specialist.

1 (2) This subsection does not relieve a veterinary technician
2 specialist of any responsibility or liability for any of his or her own acts
3 and omissions.

4 (3) A licensed veterinarian shall not establish a separate
5 office or clinic in a location other than his or her regular office and place
6 the separate office or clinic under the control or supervision of a
7 veterinary technician specialist.

8 (d) A veterinary technician specialist may receive compensation for
9 performing the practice of specialized veterinary technology.

10 (e) A person shall not use or assume the title "certified veterinary
11 technician specialist", "veterinary technician specialist", "VTS", or "CVTS"
12 or use any words, letters, abbreviations, or insignia indicating or implying
13 that the person holds a veterinary technician specialist certification unless
14 the person is certified by the board.

15
16 17-101-320. Collaborative practice agreement.

17 (a)(1)(A) A veterinary technician specialist and a veterinarian may
18 enter into a collaborative practice agreement.

19 (B) A veterinarian shall not enter into a collaborative
20 practice agreement with more than three (3) veterinary technician specialists
21 at one (1) time.

22 (2) A collaborative practice agreement shall include without
23 limitation provisions addressing:

24 (A) The location and license details of both the
25 veterinary technician specialist and collaborating veterinarian as well as
26 the availability of the collaborating veterinarian for consultation or
27 referral, or both;

28 (B) Methods of management of the collaborative practice,
29 which shall include protocols for technical duties and prescriptive
30 authority;

31 (C) Coverage of the veterinary needs of an animal patient
32 in the emergency absence of the veterinary technician specialist or
33 collaborating veterinarian; and

34 (D) Quality assurance with monthly reviews of the
35 veterinary technician specialist's animal patients' medical records or case
36 discussions with the collaborating veterinarian.

1 (3) If a collaborative practice results in complaints of
2 violations of this chapter, the Veterinary Medical Examining Board may review
3 the role of the collaborating veterinarian or the veterinary technician
4 specialist in the collaborative practice to determine if the collaborating
5 veterinarian or the veterinary technician specialist is unable to manage his
6 or her responsibilities under the collaborative practice agreement without an
7 adverse effect on the quality of care of the animal patient.

8 (4) A veterinary technician specialist shall notify the board in
9 writing within seven (7) days following the termination of a collaborative
10 practice agreement.

11 (b)(1) A veterinary technician specialist may receive drugs,
12 medicines, or therapeutic devices appropriate to the veterinary technician
13 specialist's area of practice.

14 (2) If the collaborative practice agreement between a veterinary
15 technician specialist and a collaborating veterinarian is terminated, a new
16 collaborative practice agreement shall be required.

17 (3) Under the supervision of a collaborating veterinarian, a
18 veterinary technician specialist may:

19 (A)(i) Establish care for new animal patients by forming a
20 preliminary veterinarian-client-patient relationship on behalf of the
21 collaborating veterinarian with the animal patient or client, order
22 diagnostics, provide a diagnosis or a prognosis, and develop treatment plans
23 with a collaborating veterinarian.

24 (ii) The collaborating veterinarian shall complete
25 the veterinarian-client-patient relationship by personally seeing the animal
26 patient within fifteen (15) days;

27 (B) Perform the induction, maintenance, and monitoring of
28 anesthesia for an animal patient except when in conflict with state or
29 federal law;

30 (C) Perform minor dental and surgical procedures on animal
31 patients, excluding abdominal, thoracic, or orthopedic surgery and
32 neurosurgery;

33 (D) Administer a drug or controlled substance to prevent
34 suffering of animal patients, including without limitation euthanasia, under
35 direct communication with a collaborating veterinarian;

36 (E) Initiate and perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation on

1 animal patients, including administration of medication and defibrillation,
2 and provide immediate post-resuscitation care according to established
3 protocols except when in conflict with state or federal law; and

4 (F) Dispense and administer medicines or therapeutic
5 devices for animal patients except when in conflict with state or federal
6 law.

7 (c) The veterinary technician specialist shall keep accurate records
8 in accordance with the rules of the board, including without limitation the
9 medical history, physical examination, other evaluations and consultations,
10 treatment plan objective, informed consent noted in the animal patient's
11 record, treatment, prescriptions, and medications given, agreements regarding
12 the animal patient, and periodic reviews.

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14 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 20-19-302(6), concerning the definition of
15 "vaccination against rabies" within the Rabies Control Act, is amended to
16 read as follows:

17 (6) "Vaccination against rabies" means the injection,
18 subcutaneously or otherwise, of antirabic vaccine, as approved by the United
19 States Department of Agriculture or the State Board of Health and
20 administered by a licensed veterinarian, veterinary technician, veterinary
21 technologist, veterinary technician specialist, or agent of the Department of
22 Health.

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24 /s/Vaught

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27 **APPROVED: 2/27/23**
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