

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 94th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2023  
4

As Engrossed: H1/31/23 H2/2/23

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1182

5 By: Representative Vaught  
6 By: Senator Hill  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO PROVIDE CLARITY REGARDING THE CERTIFICATION  
10 OF A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST; TO AUTHORIZE  
11 PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN  
12 SPECIALIST IN A COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE AGREEMENT WITH  
13 A VETERINARIAN; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
14  
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## Subtitle

16 TO PROVIDE CLARITY REGARDING THE  
17 CERTIFICATION OF A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN  
18 SPECIALIST; AND TO AUTHORIZE PRESCRIPTIVE  
19 AUTHORITY FOR A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN  
20 SPECIALIST IN A COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE  
21 AGREEMENT WITH A VETERINARIAN.  
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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:

30 (18) "Collaborative practice agreement" means a written plan  
31 that identifies a veterinarian and a veterinary technician specialist who  
32 agree to collaborate together in the joint management of the health care of  
33 the veterinarian's animal patients and that outlines procedures for  
34 consultation with or referral to the collaborating veterinarian or other  
35 healthcare professionals as indicated by an animal patient's healthcare  
36 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.

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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, or 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, or 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.

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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.

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16           17-101-320. Collaborative practice agreement – Prescriptive authority.

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) The board may grant a certificate of prescriptive authority to  
12 a veterinary technician specialist who:

13                   (A) Holds a current and active certification as a  
14 veterinary technician specialist in this state;

15                   (B) Submits proof of having entered into a collaborative  
16 practice agreement with a collaborating veterinarian; and

17                   (C) Acknowledges in writing that he or she is familiar  
18 with all state and federal laws and rules regarding prescribing and agrees to  
19 comply with those state and federal laws and rules.

20           (2) A veterinary technician specialist with a certificate of  
21 prescriptive authority may receive and prescribe drugs, medicines, or  
22 therapeutic devices appropriate to the veterinary technician specialist's  
23 area of practice.

24           (3) If the collaborative practice agreement between a veterinary  
25 technician specialist and a collaborating veterinarian is terminated, the  
26 certificate of prescriptive authority is also terminated, and a new  
27 collaborative practice agreement shall be required before reactivating the  
28 certificate of prescriptive authority.

29           (4) Under the supervision of a collaborating veterinarian, a  
30 veterinary technician specialist may:

31                   (A)(i) Establish care for new animal patients by forming a  
32 preliminary veterinarian-client-patient relationship on behalf of the  
33 collaborating veterinarian with the animal patient or client, order  
34 diagnostics, provide a diagnosis or a prognosis, and develop treatment plans  
35 with a collaborating veterinarian.

36                   (ii) The collaborating veterinarian shall complete

1 the veterinarian-client-patient relationship by personally seeing the animal  
2 patient within fifteen (15) days;

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

6 (C) Perform minor dental and surgical procedures on animal  
7 patients, excluding major abdominal, thoracic, or orthopedic surgery and  
8 neurosurgery;

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

12 (E) Initiate and perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation on  
13 animal patients, including administration of medication and defibrillation,  
14 and provide immediate post-resuscitation care according to established  
15 protocols except when in conflict with state or federal law; and

16 (F) Prescribe, dispense, and administer medicines or  
17 therapeutic devices for animal patients except when in conflict with state or  
18 federal law.

19 (c) A preliminary veterinarian-client-patient relationship shall be  
20 established between the veterinary technician specialist and the animal  
21 patient or client prior to prescribing under this section, unless a  
22 veterinarian-client-patient relationship already exists with the  
23 collaborating veterinarian.

24 (d) The veterinary technician specialist shall keep accurate records  
25 in accordance with the rules of the board, including without limitation the  
26 medical history, physical examination, other evaluations and consultations,  
27 treatment plan objective, informed consent noted in the animal patient's  
28 record, treatment, prescriptions, and medications given, agreements regarding  
29 the animal patient, and periodic reviews.

30 (e) All prescriptions maintained and issued by the veterinary  
31 technician specialist under this section shall be in accordance with rules of  
32 the board and include without limitation the:

33 (1) Name of the animal patient and client;

34 (2) Veterinary technician specialist's name, title, practice  
35 address, and practice telephone number; and

36 (3) Following prescription information:

- 1                   (A) Medication and strength;  
2                   (B) Dose;  
3                   (C) Amount prescribed;  
4                   (D) Directions for use; and  
5                   (E) Number of refills.

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

10               (6) "Vaccination against rabies" means the injection,  
11 subcutaneously or otherwise, of antirabic vaccine, as approved by the United  
12 States Department of Agriculture or the State Board of Health and  
13 *administered by a licensed veterinarian, veterinary technician, veterinary*  
14 *technologist, veterinary technician specialist, or agent of the Department of*  
15 *Health.*

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