



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 26-1198: ACCESS TO VETERINARY CARE

Prime Sponsors:

Rep. McCormick

Fiscal Analyst:

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Fiscal note status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill expedites licensing by endorsement for veterinarians and veterinarian technicians, and allows for the donation of unused veterinary drugs.

Types of impacts. The bill is projected to affect the following areas on an ongoing basis:

- Minimal State Workload

Appropriations. No appropriation is required.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	\$0	\$0
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE

Summary of Legislation

License by Endorsement

The bill requires that the State Board of Veterinary Medicine in the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) adopt rules and procedures to expedite receiving a license by endorsement for veterinarians and veterinarian technicians. The rules must include:

- a list of states that have substantially equivalent licensing requirements, and a process for veterinary professionals that are licensed by a state on the list to apply for and receive a license to practice in Colorado;
- a list of states that have less stringent licensing requirements, and a process for veterinary professionals licensed in those states to demonstrate that they meet the education, experience, and other qualifications required to receive a license here; and
- a process for a veterinary technician registered in another state to receive approval from a credentialing organization in Colorado as a demonstration that he or she meets the requirements to be a veterinary technician in this state, before the individual applies for a registration by endorsement.

An individual who applies for a license by endorsement does not need to submit duplicate documentation to DORA if the individual has the same documentation on file in the state where he or she was licensed to practice.

Accreditation

Under current law, an applicant for a license as a veterinary technician must complete a program accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association. The bill allows an applicant to complete any accredited program.

Veterinary Drug Donation Program

The bill allows an owner of an animal to donate unused prescription drugs to a licensed veterinarian or an animal shelter with a practicing licensed veterinarian. A veterinarian may reissue donated drugs to fill other prescriptions, with certain conditions. Donated drugs must have been prescribed by a veterinarian, not be expired and be suitable for reissue, among other limiting criteria.

Licensed veterinarians must keep donated drugs separate from other stock and maintain detailed records. Donated drugs may not be sold or reissued for animals raised to produce food for people, or for animals that are ordinarily consumed by animals that are raised to produce food for people.

State Expenditures

The bill minimally increases workload in the DORA beginning in FY 2026-27. DORA will be required to create four separate lists detailing the licensing requirements for veterinarians and veterinarian technicians in other states, and for licensing staff to review lists when presented with an application for licensure by endorsement. This is estimated to require about 140 hours of staff time to develop the lists, and about 120 hours annually to review and update the lists and use them to make endorsement decisions on applications for licensure. This workload can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

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

Law

Regulatory Agencies

The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit the [General Assembly website](#).