

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

REENGROSSED

*This Version Includes All Amendments
Adopted in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 25-0073.01 Christopher McMichael x4775

HOUSE BILL 25-1285

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE VETERINARY WORKFORCE, AND, IN CONNECTION**
102 **THEREWITH, ESTABLISHING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PRACTICE**
103 **OF VETERINARY MEDICINE BY VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL**
104 **ASSOCIATES.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

The bill establishes and modifies requirements related to the practice of veterinary medicine by a veterinary professional associate (VPA). In November 2024, voters in Colorado approved Proposition 129,

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

HOUSE
3rd Reading Unamended
March 26, 2025

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
March 25, 2025

which established the role of VPAs and permits VPAs, starting on January 1, 2026, to practice veterinary medicine under certain circumstances. The bill specifies how an individual can register as a VPA in Colorado and clarifies the circumstances under which a VPA can practice veterinary medicine.

The bill specifies that a VPA is only permitted to practice veterinary medicine under the immediate or direct supervision of a supervising licensed veterinarian. Telesupervision of a VPA practicing veterinary medicine is not permitted under the bill.

The bill requires the supervising licensed veterinarian and the VPA to file a signed written agreement with the state board of veterinary medicine (board) that states the veterinarian is responsible for the practice of veterinary medicine by the VPA. Once that agreement has been filed with the board, the supervising licensed veterinarian may delegate aspects of the practice of veterinary medicine to the VPA if:

- The aspects of the practice are within the training, experience, and competency of the VPA;
- The practice of veterinary medicine delegated to the VPA is permitted under requirements of state and federal law and board rules;
- The supervising licensed veterinarian and VPA are located at the same veterinary premises while practicing veterinary medicine; and
- The licensed veterinarian or the VPA has obtained informed consent from the client.

The bill instructs the board to adopt rules regarding the practice of veterinary medicine by VPAs, including rules that:

- Require a VPA to practice veterinary medicine only if under immediate or direct supervision;
- Permit a VPA to perform veterinary tasks that do not constitute the practice of veterinary medicine under indirect supervision if deemed appropriate by the supervising licensed veterinarian;
- Approve a nationally recognized VPA credentialing organization that requires a VPA to complete an accredited university program for VPAs, pass a VPA examination, and complete continuing education requirements;
- Provide guidance to supervising licensed veterinarians in their delegation of tasks to and supervision of VPAs;
- Determine a scope of practice for VPAs;
- Establish a registration fee for the registration of VPAs;
- Determine continuing education requirements for VPAs; and
- Establish an equivalent registration pathway for a veterinary technician specialist, which pathway considers

a veterinary technician specialist's experience, education, and training as a substitute for the education requirements needed to register as a VPA.

The bill clarifies that a veterinarian-client-patient relationship must be established and maintained only by a licensed veterinarian.

The bill requires a licensed veterinarian to comply with certain restrictions when prescribing opioids and benzodiazepines.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 finds and declares that:

4 (a) Proposition 129 was passed by voters in November 2024 and
5 established the role of a veterinary professional associate in Colorado;

6 (b) As a national leader and the first state to establish the role of
7 a veterinary professional associate, Colorado must set a strong foundation
8 and put proper guidelines in place to provide adequate structure for and
9 oversight of veterinary professional associates;

10 (c) By establishing clear guidelines for the department of
11 regulatory agencies and the state board of veterinary medicine that will
12 provide oversight and regulate veterinary professional associates,
13 Colorado will ensure the protection of animals, patients, and owners in
14 Colorado while also protecting public health and shaping the success of
15 the new veterinary professional associate position; and

16 (d) Furthermore, clear guidelines and regulations related to the
17 new veterinary professional associate position will ensure that the will of
18 the voters is implemented and that Colorado's animals receive quality
19 veterinary care.

20 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-104, **amend**
21 **as they will become effective January 1, 2026,** (21.5) and (21.7); and
22 **add** (21.9) as follows:

1 **12-315-104. Definitions.** As used in this article 315, unless the
2 context otherwise requires:

3 (21.5) "Veterinary professional" means a veterinarian licensed
4 pursuant to this part 1, a veterinary professional associate registered
5 pursuant TO part 2 of this article 315, or a veterinary technician or
6 veterinary technician specialist registered pursuant to part 2 of this article
7 315.

8 (21.7) "Veterinary professional associate" means an individual
9 who holds a master's degree in veterinary clinical care, or the equivalent,
10 AS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 12-315-106 (10)
11 AND 12-315-201 (4), and who is subject to the requirements in section
12 12-315-203.7.

13 (21.9) "VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE CREDENTIALING
14 ORGANIZATION" MEANS:

15 (a) A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE CREDENTIALING
16 ORGANIZATION APPROVED BY THE BOARD PURSUANT TO SECTIONS
17 12-315-106 (5)(j) AND 12-315-201 (1)(g) TO CREDENTIAL VETERINARY
18 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES IN THIS STATE; OR

19 (b) THE BOARD IF, PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-201 (3), NO
20 CREDENTIALING ORGANIZATION IS APPROVED.

21 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-105, **amend**
22 **as it will become effective January 1, 2026, (1)(u)** as follows:

23 **12-315-105. License requirements and exceptions - practice of**
24 **veterinary medicine - █ prescriptions - definitions - rules.** (1) An
25 individual shall not practice veterinary medicine in this state if the
26 individual is not a licensed veterinarian. An individual shall not practice
27 artificial insemination or ova transplantation of cattle or other animal


1 species in this state except in accordance with rules established pursuant
2 to section 12-315-106 (5)(c). An individual not licensed as a veterinarian
3 pursuant to this part 1 shall not diagnose, issue prognoses for, prescribe
4 for, or perform surgery on an animal. This article 315 does not prohibit:

5 (u) A veterinary professional associate from practicing veterinary
6 medicine ON SPECIES FOR WHICH THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL
7 ASSOCIATE HAS RECEIVED TRAINING AND that is:

8 (I) Within the veterinary professional associate's ~~advanced~~
9 education and experience; ~~and~~

10 (II) WITHIN THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR VETERINARY
11 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES, AS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD PURSUANT TO
12 SECTION 12-315-201 (1)(f); ~~AND~~

13 ~~(H)~~ (III) Performed while under the APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF
14 supervision of BY a licensed veterinarian who is responsible AND
15 ACCOUNTABLE for the ~~veterinary professional associate's performance.~~
16 ACTS AND OMISSIONS OF THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE.

17 
18 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-105.5,
19 **amend** (2), (3)(a) introductory portion, (3)(a)(I), (5)(a) introductory
20 portion, and (5)(a)(I); and **add** (3.5), (5)(a)(III), (5)(a)(IV), (8), and (9) as
21 follows:

22 **12-315-105.5. Delegation to and supervision of veterinary**
23 **technicians, veterinary technician specialists, veterinary professional**
24 **associates, and other qualified personnel - rules.** (2) A licensed
25 veterinarian shall establish a veterinarian-client-patient relationship
26 before the veterinarian delegates a task to a veterinary technician, a
27 veterinary technician specialist, A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE,

1 or other qualified personnel.

2 (3) (a) When determining whether to delegate a task to a
3 veterinary technician, a veterinary technician specialist, A VETERINARY
4 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE, or other qualified personnel, a licensed
5 veterinarian shall consider:

6 (I) The level of education, skills, training, licensing, and
7 experience of the veterinary technician, the veterinary technician
8 specialist, THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE, or other qualified
9 personnel;

10 (3.5) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY DELEGATE THE PRACTICE OF
11 VETERINARY MEDICINE TO A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE AND
12 SUPERVISE THE PERFORMANCE OF THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL
13 ASSOCIATE IF:

14 (a) THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN HAS SIGNED AN AGREEMENT
15 WITH THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE IN ACCORDANCE WITH
16 SECTION 12-315-203.7 (6);

17 (b) THE DELEGATION, SUPERVISION, AND PERFORMANCE OF THE
18 PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE ARE BEING CONDUCTED IN
19 COMPLIANCE WITH THIS ARTICLE 315 AND ALL APPLICABLE BOARD RULES;

20 (c) THE SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN IS LOCATED AT THE
21 SAME VETERINARY PREMISES AS THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL
22 ASSOCIATE WHILE THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE IS
23 PERFORMING THE PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE, UNLESS THE
24 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE MEETS THE INDIRECT SUPERVISION
25 REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (9) OF THIS SECTION; AND

26 (d) THE SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN IS SUPERVISING NO
27 MORE THAN THREE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES WHO ARE

1 PRACTICING VETERINARY MEDICINE AT ANY ONE TIME.

2 (5) (a) In ~~promulgating~~ ADOPTING rules pursuant to this section
3 related to the delegation of tasks and supervision of veterinary
4 professionals or other personnel, the board shall:

5 (I) Consult with licensed veterinarians, registered veterinary
6 technicians, veterinary technician specialists, clients, and other relevant
7 stakeholders, as determined by the board; and

8 (III) REQUIRE THAT A LICENSED VETERINARIAN SUPERVISE A
9 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE UNDER EITHER IMMEDIATE
10 SUPERVISION OR DIRECT SUPERVISION WHEN THE VETERINARY
11 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE IS PRACTICING VETERINARY MEDICINE, UNLESS
12 THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE MEETS THE INDIRECT
13 SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (9) OF THIS SECTION; AND

14 (IV) PERMIT A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE TO
15 PERFORM VETERINARY TASKS THAT DO NOT CONSTITUTE THE PRACTICE OF
16 VETERINARY MEDICINE UNDER INDIRECT SUPERVISION IF THE SUPERVISING
17 LICENSED VETERINARIAN DETERMINES THAT THE VETERINARY TASKS ARE
18 WITHIN THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE'S EDUCATION AND
19 TRAINING AND IF THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN DELEGATES THE
20 VETERINARY TASKS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION AND APPLICABLE
21 BOARD RULES.

22 (8) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN SHALL FOLLOW ALL APPLICABLE
23 STATE AND FEDERAL LAW WHEN ISSUING PRESCRIPTIONS.

24 (9) A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE MAY PRACTICE
25 VETERINARY MEDICINE UNDER INDIRECT SUPERVISION IF THE VETERINARY
26 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE MEETS REQUISITE CLINICAL BENCHMARKS,
27 INCLUDING PERFORMING THE PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE UNDER

1 THE DIRECT OR IMMEDIATE SUPERVISION OF A LICENSED VETERINARIAN
2 FOR A SPECIFIED AMOUNT OF HOURS, AS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD.

3 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-106, **amend**
4 **as it will become effective January 1, 2026, (5)(j); and add (10)** as
5 follows:

6 **12-315-106. Board of veterinary medicine - creation - powers**
7 **- rules.** (5) The board has the power to:

8 (j) ADOPT RULES TO approve a nationally recognized veterinary
9 professional associate credentialing organization for purposes of
10 credentialing veterinary professional associates in this state. The
11 credentialing organization approved by the board ~~may~~ **MUST:**

12 (I) Require completion of a university-approved program for
13 veterinary professional associates ~~and~~ **THAT:**

14 (A) IF COMPLETED BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2033, MUST BE
15 APPROVED BY THE BOARD; OR

16 (B) IF COMPLETED ON OR AFTER SEPTEMBER, 1, 2033, MUST BE
17 ACCREDITED BY A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ACCREDITING ORGANIZATION
18 OR EQUIVALENT ORGANIZATION, AS APPROVED BY THE BOARD;

19 (II) Require that an applicant pass a veterinary professional
20 associate national examination THAT HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE BOARD;

21 AND

22 (III) REQUIRE CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR VETERINARY
23 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES.

24 (10) THE BOARD MAY ESTABLISH BY RULE AN EQUIVALENT
25 REGISTRATION PATHWAY FOR A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST TO
26 REGISTER AS A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE. THE BOARD MAY
27 CONSIDER THE EXPERIENCE, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING OF A VETERINARY

1 TECHNICIAN WHO IS DESIGNATED AS A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN
2 SPECIALIST PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-203 (4.5) TO BE EQUIVALENT TO
3 THE EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL
4 ASSOCIATE REQUIRED BY SECTION 12-315-203.7 (2)(a).

5 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-110, **amend**
6 (3)(a)(II)(C) as follows:

7 **12-315-110. License renewal - waiver - rules - continuing**
8 **education.** (3) (a) (II) The board-approved continuing educational
9 program must:

10 (C) Require two hours each licensing period on topics related to
11 the delegation of tasks TO and the supervision of veterinary technicians,
12 veterinary technician specialists, VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES,
13 and other personnel.

14 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-119, **amend**
15 (1) as follows:

16 **12-315-119. Veterinary records in custody of animal care**
17 **providers - definition - rules.** (1) As used in this section, unless the
18 context otherwise requires, "animal care provider" means:

19 (a) ~~any~~ A veterinary practice or veterinary hospital, including the
20 veterinary teaching hospital at Colorado state university, that provides
21 veterinary care or treatment to animals; AND

22 (b) A FACILITY WHERE A LICENSED VETERINARIAN PROVIDES
23 VETERINARY CARE.

24 **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-121, **amend**
25 (3) as follows:

26 **12-315-121. Corporate structure for the practice of veterinary**
27 **medicine - definitions.** (3) (a) (I) The practice of veterinary medicine by

1 a corporation pursuant to this section must be performed by or under the
2 supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

3 (II) Lay directors, officers, and shareholders of the corporation
4 shall not exercise any authority whatsoever over the independent medical
5 judgment of licensed veterinarians performing or supervising the practice
6 of veterinary medicine by or on behalf of the corporation.

7 (b) A CORPORATION, EMPLOYER, DIRECTOR, OR OFFICER SHALL
8 NOT REQUIRE A LICENSED VETERINARIAN TO SUPERVISE A VETERINARY
9 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE AS A CONDITION OF EMPLOYMENT.

10

11 **SECTION 9.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-201, **amend**
12 (1)(d) and (1.5); **amend as they will become effective January 1, 2026,**
13 (1)(e) and (1)(f); and **add** (1)(g), (1)(h), (3), and (4) as follows:

14 **12-315-201. Additional board duties - rules - repeal.** (1) In
15 addition to any other duties specified in this part 2 and sections
16 12-315-105.5 and 12-315-106, the board shall:

17 (d) Adopt any rules necessary for the delegation of veterinary
18 tasks to veterinary technicians, ~~and~~ veterinary technician specialists,
19 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES, OR OTHER PERSONNEL and for
20 the supervision of those delegated tasks by a licensed veterinarian;

21 (e) Require biennial continuing education for veterinary
22 professional associates, as ~~may be~~ determined by the board by rule, as a
23 condition of renewing registration; ~~and~~

24 (f) Adopt any rules necessary for DETERMINING the SCOPE OF
25 practice ~~and supervision of~~ FOR veterinary professional associates; ■

26 (g) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION,
27 ADOPT RULES TO APPROVE A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED VETERINARY

1 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE CREDENTIALING ORGANIZATION FOR PURPOSES
2 OF CREDENTIALING VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES IN THIS STATE
3 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 12-315-106 (5)(j); AND

4 (h) ADOPT ANY RULES NECESSARY TO ALLOW A VETERINARY
5 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE TO PRACTICE VETERINARY MEDICINE UNDER
6 INDIRECT SUPERVISION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 12-315-105.5 (9).

7 (1.5) The board shall not:

8 (a) Charge a fee FOR THE DESIGNATION OF VETERINARY
9 TECHNICIAN SPECIALISTS in addition to the registration fee charged
10 ~~pursuant to section 12-315-123 for the designation of veterinary~~
11 ~~technician specialists~~ FOR VETERINARY TECHNICIANS; or

12 (b) Increase the amount of the registration fee charged ~~pursuant~~
13 ~~to section 12-315-123~~ for veterinary technicians who seek veterinary
14 technician specialist designation to an amount that is more than the
15 registration fee that is required of other veterinary technicians.

16 (3) IF THE BOARD DOES NOT APPROVE A VETERINARY
17 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE CREDENTIALING ORGANIZATION FOR PURPOSES
18 OF CREDENTIALING VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES IN THIS STATE
19 PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-106 (5)(j) BECAUSE THERE IS NO
20 CREDENTIALING ORGANIZATION THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS SET
21 FORTH IN SECTION 12-315-106 (5)(j) OR FOR ANY OTHER REASON, THE
22 BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH BY RULE AND ADMINISTER A CREDENTIALING
23 PROCESS FOR VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE REGISTRATION.

24 (4) THE BOARD MAY ESTABLISH BY RULE AN EQUIVALENT
25 REGISTRATION PATHWAY FOR A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST TO
26 REGISTER AS A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE, WHICH PATHWAY
27 CONSIDERS THE EXPERIENCE, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING OF A

1 VETERINARY TECHNICIAN WHO IS DESIGNATED AS A VETERINARY
2 TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-203 (4.5) TO BE
3 EQUIVALENT TO THE EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR A VETERINARY
4 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE REQUIRED BY SECTION 12-315-203.7 (2)(a).

5 **SECTION 10.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 12-315-202
6 as follows:

7 **12-315-202. Registration required - rules.** (1) Effective January
8 1, 2024, ~~a person~~ AN INDIVIDUAL who practices as a veterinary technician
9 in this state must be registered by the board pursuant to this part 2 and
10 rules adopted by the board for the registration of veterinary technicians.

11 (2) EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026, AN INDIVIDUAL WHO INTENDS TO
12 PRACTICE AS A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE IN THIS STATE
13 MUST BE REGISTERED BY THE BOARD PURSUANT TO THIS PART 2 AND
14 RULES ADOPTED BY THE BOARD FOR THE REGISTRATION OF VETERINARY
15 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES.

16 **SECTION 11.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-203.7,
17 **amend as they will become effective January 1, 2026,** (2), (3), and
18 (4)(c); and **add** (4)(c.5) and (6) as follows:

19 **12-315-203.7. Veterinary professional associate - qualifications**
20 **- registration - fees - continuing education - rules. (2) Qualifications.**

21 (a) To be qualified for registration as a veterinary professional associate,
22 an individual must:

23 (a) (I) Be at least **eighteen** years of age; ~~and~~

24 (b) (II) Hold a master's degree in veterinary clinical care, or the
25 equivalent, as determined by the board **THAT:**

26 (A) **IF COMPLETED BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2033, MUST BE FROM A**
27 **UNIVERSITY-APPROVED PROGRAM THAT IS APPROVED BY THE BOARD; OR**

1 (B) IF COMPLETED ON OR AFTER SEPTEMBER 1, 2033, MUST BE
2 FROM A UNIVERSITY-APPROVED PROGRAM THAT IS ACCREDITED BY A
3 NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ACCREDITING ORGANIZATION OR EQUIVALENT
4 ORGANIZATION, AS APPROVED BY THE BOARD; AND

5 (III) PASS A NATIONAL CREDENTIALING EXAM APPROVED BY THE
6 BOARD DEMONSTRATING ENTRY-LEVEL COMPETENCY TO PRACTICE AS A
7 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE.

8 (b) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO DOES NOT MEET THE QUALIFICATIONS SET
9 FORTH IN SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION MAY BE QUALIFIED TO
10 REGISTER AS A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE IF THE INDIVIDUAL:

11 (I) IS REGISTERED AS A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN WITH A
12 DESIGNATION AS A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST; AND

13 (II) IN LIEU OF THE EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN
14 SUBSECTION (2)(a)(II) OF THIS SECTION, MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE
15 EQUIVALENT REGISTRATION PATHWAY AS ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD
16 PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-106 (10).

17 (3) **Registration.** ~~Commencing~~ EFFECTIVE January 1, 2026, an
18 individual who practices as a veterinary professional associate in this state
19 must be registered by the board pursuant to this section and rules adopted
20 by the board for the registration of veterinary professional associates.

21 (4) **Rules.** Prior to registering veterinary professional associates
22 pursuant to this section, the board shall establish, by rule:

23 (c) Any information or confirmation required by the supervising
24 licensed veterinarian, INCLUDING THE AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO
25 BETWEEN THE VETERINARIAN AND A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL
26 ASSOCIATE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS SECTION;

27 (c.5) A REGISTRATION FEE FOR THE REGISTRATION OF VETERINARY

1 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES, WHICH FEE SHALL:

2 (I) BE PAID BY AN INDIVIDUAL APPLYING FOR REGISTRATION AS A
3 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE AS PART OF THEIR APPLICATION;
4 AND

5 (II) BE SET AT AN AMOUNT THAT DOES NOT RESULT IN THE
6 COLLECTION OF FEES IN AN AGGREGATE AMOUNT THAT IS GREATER THAN
7 THE AMOUNT OF ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS INCURRED BY THE BOARD IN THE
8 IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ARTICLE 315 RELATED TO VETERINARY
9 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES;

10 (6) (a) BEFORE A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE BEGINS
11 WORKING WITH A SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN, THE
12 SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN AND THE VETERINARY
13 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE SHALL ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT THAT
14 STATES:

15 (I) THAT THE SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN IS
16 RESPONSIBLE AND ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE ACTS AND OMISSIONS OF THE
17 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE IN THEIR PRACTICE OF
18 VETERINARY MEDICINE AND VERIFYING THAT THE VETERINARY
19 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE HAS THE COMPETENCY TO PRACTICE
20 VETERINARY MEDICINE OR PERFORM ANY TASKS DELEGATED TO THEM BY
21 THE SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN RELATED TO THE PRACTICE OF
22 VETERINARY MEDICINE;

23 (II) THAT THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN SHALL SUPERVISE NO
24 MORE THAN THREE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES WHO ARE
25 PRACTICING VETERINARY MEDICINE AT ANY ONE TIME AND THAT A
26 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE AND THE SUPERVISING LICENSED
27 VETERINARIAN MUST BE LOCATED AT THE SAME VETERINARY PREMISES

1 WHILE THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE IS PRACTICING
2 VETERINARY MEDICINE, UNLESS THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL
3 ASSOCIATE MEETS THE INDIRECT SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS OF
4 SUBSECTION (9) OF THIS SECTION; AND

5 (III) THE SPECIES FOR WHICH THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL
6 ASSOCIATE HAS RECEIVED EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN THE PRACTICE OF
7 VETERINARY MEDICINE.

8 (b) (I) A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE SHALL ENTER
9 INTO AN AGREEMENT DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (6)(a) OF THIS SECTION
10 WITH EVERY LICENSED VETERINARIAN THAT WILL SUPERVISE THE
11 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE IN THE VETERINARY
12 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE'S PERFORMANCE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE.

13 (II) A SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN SHALL ENTER INTO
14 THE AGREEMENT DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (6)(a) OF THIS SECTION WITH
15 EVERY VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE EMPLOYED AT THE
16 VETERINARY PREMISES THAT THE SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN
17 INTENDS TO SUPERVISE IN THE PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE.

18 **SECTION 12.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-208, **amend**
19 **as they will become effective January 1, 2026,** (1)(a)(I) introductory
20 portion and (1)(a)(I)(B) as follows:

21 **12-315-208. Examination of registrants - behavioral health -**
22 **mental health - physical conditions.** (1) (a) (I) If, upon receipt of a
23 signed complaint by a complainant, the board has reasonable cause to
24 believe that a veterinary technician or veterinary professional associate is
25 unable to practice as a veterinary technician OR VETERINARY
26 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE with reasonable skill and safety to patients or
27 clients due to a physical condition or a behavioral health, mental health,

1 or substance use disorder, the board may require in writing that the
2 veterinary technician or veterinary professional associate submit to an
3 examination to evaluate:

4 (B) Any impact the physical condition or the behavioral health,
5 mental health, or substance use disorder has on the veterinary technician's
6 or veterinary professional associate's ability to practice as a veterinary
7 technician OR VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE with reasonable
8 skill and safety to patients and clients.

9 **SECTION 13.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-209.7,
10 **amend as they will become effective January 1, 2026,** (1), (2), (3)
11 introductory portion, and (4) introductory portion; and **add** (5) as follows:

12 **12-315-209.7. Duties of licensed veterinarian - direction and**
13 **supervision of veterinary professional associate - rules.** (1) Except as
14 provided in subsection (2) of this section, a person practicing
15 VETERINARY MEDICINE as a veterinary professional associate may perform
16 duties and actions authorized pursuant to section 12-315-105 (1)(u) that
17 are within the scope of the veterinary professional associate's ~~advanced~~
18 education and experience if the person ~~performs those duties~~ PRACTICES
19 VETERINARY MEDICINE under the ~~APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF supervision of~~
20 ~~BY~~ a licensed veterinarian.

21 (2) A veterinary professional associate shall perform only those
22 duties or actions delegated by the licensed supervising veterinarian, WITH
23 WHOM THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE HAS A SIGNED
24 AGREEMENT ~~IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 12-315-203.7 (6), for~~
25 which the veterinary professional associate has the necessary training, ~~and~~
26 experience, AND COMPETENCY, as determined by the supervising
27 veterinarian, to meet generally accepted standards of veterinary care.


1 (3) If a veterinary professional associate is delegated duties
2 beyond the veterinary professional associate's training, ~~and~~ experience,
3 AND COMPETENCY, the licensed veterinarian:

4 (4) If a veterinary professional associate performs duties beyond
5 the veterinary professional associate's training, ~~and~~ experience, AND
6 COMPETENCY or does not conform with the requirement to perform all
7 duties and actions pursuant to section 12-315-105 (1)(u) under the
8 APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF supervision of BY a licensed supervising
9 veterinarian as specified in subsection (1) of this section, the veterinary
10 professional associate may be subject to:

11 (5) BEFORE A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE ENGAGES IN
12 THE PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE ON A PATIENT, THE VETERINARY
13 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE MUST:

14 (a) WEAR A NAME-TAG OR SIMILAR IDENTIFICATION OF SUFFICIENT
15 SIZE IN A CONSPICUOUS MANNER EASILY VISIBLE TO CLIENTS THAT
16 IDENTIFIES THE PERSON AS A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE,
17 WITHOUT ABBREVIATION; AND

18 (b) INTRODUCE THEMSELVES TO A CLIENT AS A REGISTERED
19 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE.

20 
21 **SECTION 14.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-30-109, **amend**
22 (2) and (4)(e); and **add** (4)(f.5) as follows:

23 **12-30-109. Prescriptions - limitations - definition - rules.** (2) A
24 prescriber licensed pursuant to article 315 of this title 12 may prescribe
25 opioids and benzodiazepines electronically IN ACCORDANCE WITH
26 SECTION 12-315-305.

27 (4) As used in this section, "prescriber" means:

1 (e) A podiatrist licensed pursuant to article 290 of this title 12; or

2 (f.5) A VETERINARIAN LICENSED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 315 OF

3 THIS TITLE 12; OR

4



5 **SECTION 15. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act

6 takes effect January 1, 2026; except that, if a referendum petition is filed

7 pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this

8 act or an item, section, or part of this act within the ninety-day period

9 after final adjournment of the general assembly, then the act, item,

10 section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the

11 general election to be held in November 2026 and, in such case, will take

12 effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the

13 governor.