



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 25-1285: VETERINARY WORKFORCE REQUIREMENTS

Prime Sponsors:

Rep. McCormick
Sen. Kipp; Pelton B.

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Published for: House Ag., Water & Natural Res.**Drafting number:** LLS 25-0073**Version:** Initial Fiscal Note**Date:** February 28, 2025**Fiscal note status:** The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill establishes implementation details related to Proposition 129, which created the practice of veterinary medicine by a veterinary professional associate.

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

- Minimal State Revenue
- Minimal State Workload

Appropriations. No appropriation is required.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

| Type of Impact | Budget Year FY 2025-26 | Out Year FY 2026-27 |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 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

Proposition 129, which was approved by voters in November 2024, established the practice of veterinary medicine by a veterinary professional associate (VPA), as regulated by the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA). The bill modifies the requirements for VPAs. Specific changes are discussed below.

Qualifications

Under the bill, to qualify to register as a VPA, a person must be at least 21 years old, have a master's degree in an appropriate field, and pass a national credentialing exam. DORA is authorized to establish an equivalent registration pathway for registered veterinary technician specialists. DORA is authorized to approve a national credentialing organization or administer its own credentialing process if no national organization meets statutory criteria. Additionally, DORA may establish continuing education requirements for VPAs and veterinarians regarding the practice of veterinary medicine by VPAs.

Registration & Supervision

The bill clarifies that persons intending to practice as a VPA must register with DORA starting January 1, 2026, and clarifies that DORA is authorized to establish a fee for VPA registration, which must be set only to cover administrative costs.

At the time of registration, a VPA must have an agreement with the veterinarian supervising the VPA, and veterinarians must enter into agreements with any VPAs they supervise. Veterinarians may only supervise a single VPA at any one time and are responsible and liable for supervising VPAs. Telesupervision is authorized only for tasks that do not constitute veterinary medicine.

Scope of Practice

DORA is authorized to establish rules regarding the scope of practice for VPAs. The bill specifies that VPAs must:

- be immediately or directly supervised by veterinarians, although certain tasks may be performed by a VPA under indirect supervision;
- practice only on species for which VPAs have received training;
- not prescribe or dispense medication in violation of federal law; and
- not practice veterinary medicine using telemedicine.

The bill requires that clients provide informed consent before VPAs practice veterinary medicine on patients, and only a veterinarian may establish and maintain a veterinarian-client-patient relationship.

State Revenue and Expenditures

The bill minimally impacts state expenditures. DORA is currently in the process of implementing Proposition 129, and must begin registering VPAs by January 1, 2026. The bill may increase workload in DORA to align the new program with the bill; however, this increase is expected to be incorporated into the department's current workload to establish the regulatory program. No change in appropriations is required.

Proposition 129 included a provision allowing a VPA registration fee to be charged. As a result, the bill is assumed to have no impact on state revenue.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect January 1, 2026, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Regulatory Agencies