



## Fiscal Note

### Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

## HB 25-1285: VETERINARY WORKFORCE REQUIREMENTS

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**Prime Sponsors:**

Rep. McCormick  
Sen. Kipp; Pelton B.

**Fiscal Analyst:**

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**Published for:** House Second Reading**Drafting number:** LLS 25-0073**Version:** First Revised Note**Date:** March 20, 2025

**Fiscal note status:** The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill, as amended by the House Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources Committee.

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### 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.

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**Table 1**  
**State Fiscal Impacts**

<b>Type of Impact</b>	<b>Budget Year FY 2025-26</b>	<b>Out Year FY 2026-27</b>
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

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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 18 years old, have a master's degree in an appropriate field, and pass a national credentialing exam. Before September 1, 2033, a degree used for qualification must be approved by DORA, and after this date a degree must be approved by a national accrediting organization designated by DORA. DORA is authorized to establish an equivalent registration pathway for veterinary technician specialists.

DORA is authorized to approve a national credentialing organization or administer its own credentialing process if no national organization meets certain criteria. Additionally, DORA may establish continuing education requirements for VPAs and veterinarians regarding the practice of veterinary medicine by VPAs.

### Registration

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 supervise up to three VPAs at any one time and are responsible and accountable for supervising VPAs.

### Practice of Veterinary Medicine by VPAs

DORA is authorized to establish rules regarding the practice of veterinary medicine by VPAs. The bill specifies that VPAs must:

- be supervised in the performance of veterinary medicine by veterinarians, with the level of supervision based on VPA training, the agreement with a supervising veterinarian, and applicable professional regulations;
- practice only on species for which VPAs have received training; and
- not prescribe or dispense medication in violation of state and federal law.

The bill requires that VPAs identify themselves as a VPA to a client before performing veterinary medicine on patients, and only a veterinarian may establish and maintain a veterinarian-client-patient relationship.

## State Revenue and Expenditures

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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

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

## State and Local Government Contacts

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Regulatory Agencies