

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 24-0357.01 Christopher McMichael x4775

HOUSE BILL 24-1047

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

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Roberts and Simpson, Bridges, Pelton B., Pelton R.

House Committees

Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR VETERINARY TECHNICIANS,**
102 **AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, DIRECTING THE STATE BOARD**
103 **OF VETERINARY MEDICINE TO PROMULGATE RULES REGARDING**
104 **THE SUPERVISION OF AND THE DELEGATION OF CERTAIN**
105 **VETERINARY MEDICINE TASKS TO VETERINARY TECHNICIANS,**
106 **VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALISTS, OR OTHER PERSONNEL**
107 **BY A LICENSED VETERINARIAN AND ESTABLISHING A**
108 **VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST DESIGNATION.**

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

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.

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Water Resources and Agriculture Review Committee. The board of veterinary medicine (board) is required to promulgate rules establishing certain veterinary medicine tasks that a licensed veterinarian may delegate to veterinary technicians and veterinary technician specialists and the recommended level of supervision for the tasks.

A licensed veterinarian may delegate tasks pursuant to the board's rules after first establishing a veterinarian-client-patient relationship with an animal or group of animals and the owner of the animal or animals. The licensed veterinarian is required to provide an appropriate level of supervision of the veterinary technician or veterinary technician specialist in accordance with applicable rules of the board. If there are not applicable rules related to the specific veterinary task that is being delegated, the veterinarian may delegate the task based on the assessment of the veterinary medical care being provided, the experience, education, and training of the person providing the care, and in compliance with all state and federal laws.

Beginning on January 1, 2026, the bill authorizes a veterinary technician to receive a veterinary technician specialist designation as part of the veterinary technician's registration, grants title protection for veterinary technician specialists, and prohibits the unauthorized practice as a veterinary technician specialist by a person who does not have a veterinary technician specialist designation.

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) In Colorado, there is an increasing need for veterinary care,
5 both for companion animals and for livestock or production animals;

6 (b) Licensed veterinarians in Colorado are stretched thin from the
7 increased demands for veterinary care, especially in rural areas of the
8 state where clients and patients may have more limited access to
9 veterinary care;

10 (c) Many veterinary practices in Colorado employ veterinary
11 technicians or veterinary technician specialists, who are staff that are

1 educated and trained to perform various veterinary services and are often
2 underutilized by supervising veterinarians;

3 (d) Clear guidelines are needed for veterinarians regarding the
4 veterinary services that may be delegated to veterinary technicians and
5 veterinary technician specialists to efficiently and effectively utilize the
6 education, training, and expertise of all veterinary staff and ensure that
7 Colorado's animals have adequate access to veterinary care; and

8 (e) Expanding the scope of practice for veterinary technicians and
9 veterinary technician specialists and authorizing licensed veterinarians to
10 delegate specific tasks to veterinary technicians and veterinary technician
11 specialists will allow these veterinary professionals to contribute more to
12 the delivery of veterinary care.

13 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-104, **amend**
14 (6), (10), (10.5), (13), (21), (21.5), and (24); and **add** (5.5), (16.3), (16.5),
15 and (26) as follows:

16 **12-315-104. Definitions.** As used in this article 315, unless the
17 context otherwise requires:

18 (5.5) "DELEGATION" OR "DELEGATE" MEANS A LICENSED
19 VETERINARIAN'S ACT OF ENTRUSTING TO AN INDIVIDUAL THE AUTHORITY
20 TO PERFORM A VETERINARY MEDICINE TASK UNDER THE APPROPRIATE
21 LEVEL OF SUPERVISION BY THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN AFTER THE
22 LICENSED VETERINARIAN HAS DETERMINED THAT THE INDIVIDUAL IS
23 COMPETENT TO PERFORM THE VETERINARY MEDICINE TASK.

24 (6) "Direct supervision" means the supervising licensed
25 veterinarian is readily available on the premises where the patient is being
26 treated AND IS ABLE TO SUPERVISE THE VETERINARY MEDICINE TASKS
27 THAT HAVE BEEN DELEGATED TO AN INDIVIDUAL.

1 (10) "Immediate supervision" means the supervising licensed
2 veterinarian ~~and any person being supervised are in direct contact with the~~
3 ~~patient~~ IS PHYSICALLY IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA ON THE PREMISES AND
4 WITHIN AUDIBLE OR VISUAL RANGE OF THE PATIENT AND THE INDIVIDUAL
5 PERFORMING THE VETERINARY MEDICINE TASKS THAT HAVE BEEN
6 DELEGATED BY THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN.

7 (10.5) "Indirect supervision" means ~~supervision in which the~~
8 supervising licensed veterinarian ~~directs or supervises the authorized~~
9 ~~delegated~~ NEED NOT BE ON THE VETERINARY PREMISES BUT:

10 (a) HAS GIVEN EITHER WRITTEN OR VERBAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR
11 THE ~~treatment or collection of diagnostic information~~ of a patient; at
12 ~~veterinary premises without being on the premises but being~~ AND

13 (b) IS readily available for communication.

14 (13) "Patient" means ~~an~~ ANY animal OR GROUP OF ANIMALS that
15 is examined or treated by a licensed veterinarian and includes herds,
16 flocks, litters, and other groups of animals.

17 (16.3) "SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN" MEANS A
18 LICENSED VETERINARIAN IN THE STATE WHO DELEGATES AND ASSUMES
19 RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE VETERINARY CARE PROVIDED TO A PATIENT BY
20 AN INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYED BY THE SAME PRACTICE AS THE LICENSED
21 VETERINARIAN AND WORKING UNDER AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF
22 SUPERVISION BY THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN.

23 (16.5) (a) "SUPERVISION" MEANS A LICENSED VETERINARIAN'S
24 OVERSIGHT AND MONITORING OF ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL'S ASSISTANCE IN
25 THE TREATMENT OF ANIMALS AS PART OF THE VETERINARIAN'S PRACTICE
26 OF VETERINARY MEDICINE.

27 (b) "SUPERVISION" INCLUDES:

- 1 (I) DIRECT SUPERVISION;
- 2 (II) IMMEDIATE SUPERVISION; AND
- 3 (III) INDIRECT SUPERVISION.

4 (21) "Veterinary premises" or "premises" means a veterinary
5 office, hospital, clinic, BUILDING, MOBILE UNIT, FACILITY, or temporary
6 OTHER location where veterinary ~~medicine is being practiced~~ MEDICAL
7 SERVICES ARE PROVIDED by or under the direction and supervision of a
8 licensed veterinarian.

9 (21.5) "Veterinary professional" means a veterinarian licensed
10 pursuant to this part 1 ~~and~~ OR a veterinary technician OR VETERINARY
11 TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST registered pursuant to part 2 of this article 315.

12 (24) "Veterinary technician" means a veterinary technician
13 registered pursuant to ~~part 2 of this article 315~~ SECTION 12-315-203.

14 (26) "VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST" MEANS A VETERINARY
15 TECHNICIAN WHO HAS BEEN AWARDED DESIGNATION FROM:

16 (a) AN ACADEMY RECOGNIZED BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
17 VETERINARY TECHNICIANS IN AMERICA'S COMMITTEE OF VETERINARY
18 TECHNICIAN SPECIALITIES OR ITS SUCCESSOR ORGANIZATION, WHICH
19 ORGANIZATION IS A RECOGNIZED VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST
20 ORGANIZATION; OR

21 (b) A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED VETERINARY TECHNICIAN
22 SPECIALIST ORGANIZATION APPROVED BY THE BOARD PURSUANT TO
23 SECTION 12-315-201 (1)(c).

24 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-105, **amend**
25 (1) introductory portion, (1)(j), and (2)(a); and **add** (1)(r) and (1)(s) as
26 follows:

27 **12-315-105. License requirements and exceptions - definitions**

1 - rules. (1) ~~A person~~ AN INDIVIDUAL shall not practice veterinary
2 medicine in this state if the ~~person~~ INDIVIDUAL is not a licensed
3 veterinarian. ~~A person~~ AN INDIVIDUAL shall not practice artificial
4 insemination or ova transplantation of cattle or other animal species in
5 this state except in accordance with RULES ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO
6 section 12-315-106 (5)(c). AN INDIVIDUAL NOT LICENSED AS A
7 VETERINARIAN PURSUANT TO THIS PART 1 SHALL NOT DIAGNOSE, ISSUE
8 PROGNOSSES FOR, PRESCRIBE FOR, AUTHORIZE TREATMENT PLANS FOR, OR
9 PERFORM SURGERY ON AN ANIMAL. This article 315 does not prohibit:

10 (j) (I) Any ~~person~~ INDIVIDUAL from performing duties ~~other than~~
11 ~~diagnosis, prescription, surgery, or initiating treatment~~ under the ~~direction~~
12 ~~and~~ APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF supervision ~~of~~ BY a licensed veterinarian who
13 ~~shall be~~ IS responsible for the ~~person's~~ INDIVIDUAL'S performance IN
14 ACCORDANCE WITH BOARD RULES ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION
15 12-315-105.5 (4); OR

16 (II) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN FROM DELEGATING VETERINARY
17 TASKS RELATED TO THE DIAGNOSIS, PROGNOSIS, PRESCRIPTION, OR
18 TREATMENT OF, OR THE PERFORMANCE OF SURGERY ON, AN ANIMAL
19 UNDER THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN'S SUPERVISION IN ACCORDANCE WITH
20 BOARD RULES ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-105.5 (4);

21 (r) AN INDIVIDUAL ACTING UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A
22 LICENSED VETERINARIAN FROM PROVIDING CARE TO ANIMALS LOCATED AT
23 AN ANIMAL SHELTER THAT ARE THE PROPERTY OF AN ANIMAL SHELTER IF:

24 (I) THE INDIVIDUAL IS PERFORMING TASKS IN COMPLIANCE WITH
25 A WRITTEN OR VERBAL PROTOCOL PROVIDED BY THE SUPERVISING
26 LICENSED VETERINARIAN; AND

27 (II) THE SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN HAS DETERMINED

1 THE INDIVIDUAL HAS RECEIVED SUFFICIENT AND PROPER TRAINING; OR

2 (s) AN INDIVIDUAL FROM PERFORMING ACCEPTED ANIMAL
3 HUSBANDRY ON LIVESTOCK AS THOSE TERMS ARE DEFINED IN SECTION
4 35-42-103 IF:

5 (I) THE INDIVIDUAL IS AN OWNER OF AN ANIMAL OR IS AN
6 INDIVIDUAL ACTING UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE OWNER OF THE ANIMAL
7 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1)(f)(I) OF THIS SECTION; OR

8 (II) THE INDIVIDUAL ACTS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A LICENSED
9 VETERINARIAN AND:

10 (A) THE SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN HAS ESTABLISHED
11 A VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LIVESTOCK
12 AND ITS OWNER;

13 (B) THE INDIVIDUAL IS PERFORMING TASKS IN COMPLIANCE WITH
14 A WRITTEN OR VERBAL PROTOCOL DEVELOPED BY THE SUPERVISING
15 LICENSED VETERINARIAN; AND

16 (C) THE SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN HAS DETERMINED
17 THE INDIVIDUAL PERFORMING THE TASKS HAS RECEIVED SUFFICIENT AND
18 PROPER TRAINING.

19 (2) (a) Notwithstanding subsection (1)(f) of this section, ~~and~~
20 ~~except as permitted by subsection (1)(j) of this section,~~ a person who is
21 not a licensed veterinarian shall not ~~administer,~~ distribute, dispense, or
22 prescribe prescription drugs. Except as provided in subsection (2)(b) of
23 this section, a licensed veterinarian must have a veterinarian-client-patient
24 relationship with the animal and its owner or other caretaker in order to
25 administer, distribute, dispense, or prescribe prescription drugs to or for
26 an animal. A LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY DELEGATE THE
27 ADMINISTRATION OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS OR THE FILLING OF A

1 PRESCRIPTION ORDER TO AN INDIVIDUAL UNDER AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL
2 OF SUPERVISION DETERMINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS ARTICLE 315
3 AND BOARD RULES ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-105.5 (4).

4 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 12-315-105.5 as
5 follows:

6 **12-315-105.5. Delegation to and supervision of veterinary**
7 **technicians, veterinary technician specialists, and other qualified**
8 **personnel - rules.** (1) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY DELEGATE
9 VETERINARY MEDICINE TASKS AND DUTIES TO VETERINARY TECHNICIANS
10 OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALISTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS
11 SECTION AND RULES THAT THE BOARD ADOPTS PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION
12 (4) OF THIS SECTION.

13 (2) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN SHALL ESTABLISH A
14 VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP WITH AN ANIMAL OR
15 GROUP OF ANIMALS AND THE OWNER OF THE ANIMAL OR GROUP OF
16 ANIMALS BEFORE THE VETERINARIAN DELEGATES A VETERINARY MEDICINE
17 TASK TO A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN, A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN
18 SPECIALIST, OR OTHER QUALIFIED PERSONNEL.

19 (3) (a) WHEN DETERMINING WHETHER TO DELEGATE A
20 VETERINARY MEDICINE TASK TO A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN, A
21 VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST, OR OTHER QUALIFIED PERSONNEL,
22 A LICENSED VETERINARIAN SHALL CONSIDER:

23 (I) THE LEVEL OF EDUCATION, SKILLS, TRAINING, LICENSING, AND
24 EXPERIENCE OF THE VETERINARY TECHNICIAN, THE VETERINARY
25 TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST, OR OTHER QUALIFIED PERSONNEL;

26 (II) THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF SUPERVISION FOR THE DELEGATED
27 VETERINARY MEDICINE TASK PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS

1 SECTION AND, IF RULES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD, ANY
2 APPLICABLE RULES ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD PURSUANT TO
3 SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION; AND

4 (III) WHETHER THE DELEGATION OF THE VETERINARY MEDICINE
5 TASK COMPLIES WITH ALL APPLICABLE STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS.

6 (b) (I) IF A LICENSED VETERINARIAN DELEGATES A VETERINARY
7 MEDICINE TASK TO A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN, VETERINARY TECHNICIAN
8 SPECIALIST, OR OTHER QUALIFIED PERSONNEL AND THAT TASK IS COVERED
9 BY RULES ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION OR
10 AN APPLICABLE BOARD RULE, THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN MUST PROVIDE
11 SUPERVISION AT LEAST AT THE LEVEL OF SUPERVISION PRESCRIBED BY
12 RULE.

13 (II) IF A LICENSED VETERINARIAN DELEGATES A VETERINARY
14 MEDICINE TASK TO A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN, VETERINARY TECHNICIAN
15 SPECIALIST, OR OTHER QUALIFIED PERSONNEL AND THAT TASK IS NOT
16 COVERED BY RULES ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS
17 SECTION OR AN APPLICABLE BOARD RULE, THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN
18 MAY DELEGATE THE TASK AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF SUPERVISION, AS
19 DETERMINED BY THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS
20 SECTION.

21 (4) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2025, THE BOARD SHALL ADOPT
22 RULES REGARDING THE FOLLOWING VETERINARY MEDICINE TASKS THAT
23 A LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY DELEGATE TO A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN
24 OR A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST AND THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL
25 OF SUPERVISION FOR A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN OR A VETERINARY
26 TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST TO PERFORM THOSE TASKS:

27 (a) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY DELEGATE THE FOLLOWING

1 TASKS TO A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN
2 SPECIALIST WHO IS UNDER THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN'S IMMEDIATE
3 SUPERVISION:

4 (I) ASSISTING IN SURGICAL PROCEDURES; AND

5 (II) THE PLACEMENT OF ABDOMINAL, THORACIC,
6 ESOPHAGOSTOMY, OR PERCUTANEOUS ENDOSCOPIC GASTROSTOMY TUBES;

7 (b) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY DELEGATE THE FOLLOWING
8 TASKS TO A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN
9 SPECIALIST WHO IS UNDER AT LEAST DIRECT SUPERVISION BY THE
10 LICENSED VETERINARIAN:

11 (I) DENTAL PROCEDURES, INCLUDING:

12 (A) REMOVING CALCULUS, SOFT DEPOSITS, PLAQUE, AND STAINS;

13 (B) SMOOTHING, FILING, AND POLISHING OF TEETH;

14 (C) SINGLE ROOT EXTRACTIONS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE
15 SECTIONING OF THE TOOTH OR SECTIONING OF THE BONE; AND

16 (D) SUTURING A GINGIVAL INCISION;

17 (II) EUTHANASIA; AND

18 (III) PLACEMENT OF EPIDURAL AND INTRAOSSEOUS CATHETERS;

19 (c) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY DELEGATE THE FOLLOWING
20 TASKS TO A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN
21 SPECIALIST WHO IS UNDER AT LEAST INDIRECT SUPERVISION BY THE
22 LICENSED VETERINARIAN:

23 (I) UNLESS PROHIBITED BY STATE OR FEDERAL LAW, THE
24 ADMINISTRATION AND APPLICATION OF TREATMENTS, INCLUDING:

25 (A) PRESCRIPTION DRUGS;

26 (B) MEDICATIONS;

27 (C) CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES;

- 1 (D) ENEMAS; AND
- 2 (E) BIOLOGICAL IMMUNOLOGICAL AGENTS;
- 3 (II) INTRAVENOUS AND INTRA-ARTERIAL CATHETERIZATIONS AND
- 4 MAINTENANCE;
- 5 (III) IMAGING, INCLUDING RADIOGRAPHY, ULTRASONOGRAPHY,
- 6 COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY, MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING, AND
- 7 FLUOROSCOPY AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF RADIOPAQUE AGENTS OR
- 8 MATERIALS;
- 9 (IV) UNLESS PROHIBITED BY STATE OR FEDERAL LAW, THE
- 10 COLLECTION OF:
- 11 (A) BLOOD;
- 12 (B) CELLULAR OR MICROBIOLOGICAL SAMPLES THROUGH SKIN
- 13 SCRAPINGS, IMPRESSIONS, OR OTHER NONSURGICAL METHODS; AND
- 14 (C) URINE THROUGH BLADDER EXPRESSION, UNOBSTRUCTED
- 15 CATHETERIZATION, OR INSERTION OF AN INDWELLING URINARY CATHETER;
- 16 (V) MONITORING OF:
- 17 (A) AN ELECTROCARDIOGRAM, OR "EKG";
- 18 (B) BLOOD PRESSURE; AND
- 19 (C) CARBON DIOXIDE AND BLOOD OXYGEN SATURATION;
- 20 (VI) CLINICAL LABORATORY TEST PROCEDURES;
- 21 (VII) HANDLING AND DISPOSING OF BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE
- 22 MATERIALS;
- 23 (VIII) IMPLANTATION OF A SUBCUTANEOUS MICROCHIP;
- 24 (IX) LASER THERAPY;
- 25 (X) ANIMAL REHABILITATION THERAPIES;
- 26 (XI) OCULAR TONOMETRY, SCHIRMER TEAR TESTS, OR
- 27 FLUORESCEIN STAIN APPLICATION;

- 1 (XII) SUTURE AND STAPLE REMOVAL;
- 2 (XIII) APPLICATION OF SPLINTS AND SLINGS FOR THE TEMPORARY
3 IMMOBILIZATION OF FRACTURES;
- 4 (XIV) ADMINISTRATION OF CHEMOTHERAPY OR RADIATION
5 THERAPY;
- 6 (XV) REPRODUCTIVE ULTRASOUND AND SEMEN EVALUATION;
- 7 (XVI) BLOOD OR BLOOD COMPONENT COLLECTION, PREPARATION,
8 AND ADMINISTRATION FOR TRANSFUSION OR BLOOD BANKING PURPOSES;
- 9 (XVII) PLACEMENT OF GASTRIC, NASOGASTRIC, OR
10 NASOESOPHAGEAL TUBES;
- 11 (XVIII) EAR FLUSHING WITH PRESSURE OR SUCTION;
- 12 (XIX) FLUID ASPIRATION FROM A BODY CAVITY OR ORGAN;
- 13 (XX) SUTURING, STAPLING, OR GLUING AN EXISTING SURGICAL
14 SKIN INCISION OR SKIN LACERATION NOT PENETRATING A JOINT OR BODY
15 CAVITY, INCLUDING MINOR WOUND MANAGEMENT AND DEBRIDEMENT;
- 16 (XXI) PLACEMENT OF NASAL CATHETERS; AND
- 17 (XXII) EMERGENCY PATIENT CARE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED
18 TO:
- 19 (A) APPLICATION OF TOURNIQUETS OR PRESSURE PROCEDURES TO
20 CONTROL HEMORRHAGE;
- 21 (B) APPLICATION OF APPROPRIATE WOUND DRESSINGS;
- 22 (C) RESUSCITATIVE OXYGEN PROCEDURES;
- 23 (D) ANTI-SEIZURE TREATMENT;
- 24 (E) SUPPORTIVE TREATMENT IN HEAT PROSTRATION CASES;
- 25 (F) ADMINISTRATION OF A DRUG, CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE, OR
26 PARENTERAL FLUIDS TO MANAGE AND CONTROL PAIN, PREVENT FURTHER
27 INJURY, PREVENT OR CONTROL SHOCK, OR PREVENT THE SUFFERING OF AN

1 ANIMAL, UP TO AND INCLUDING EUTHANASIA NOTWITHSTANDING
2 SUBSECTION (4)(b)(II) OF THIS SECTION; AND

3 (G) INITIATION AND PERFORMANCE OF CARDIOPULMONARY
4 RESUSCITATION, OR "CPR", INCLUDING ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION
5 AND DEFIBRILLATION, AND IMMEDIATE POST-RESUSCITATION CARE.

6 (d) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY DELEGATE THE TREATMENT
7 OF MINOR MEDICAL CONDITIONS THAT ARISE FOR A PATIENT, AS
8 DETERMINED BY THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN, TO A VETERINARY
9 TECHNICIAN WITH ADVANCED EXPERIENCE OR A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN
10 SPECIALIST WHO IS UNDER THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN'S SUPERVISION IF:

11 (I) THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN HAS A VALID AND CURRENT
12 VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP FOR THE PATIENT;

13 (II) THE TREATMENT IS PERFORMED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE
14 LICENSED VETERINARIAN UNDER AT LEAST INDIRECT SUPERVISION AND
15 UNDER PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED WRITTEN PROTOCOLS; AND

16 (III) THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN WILL BE ABLE TO STEP IN TO
17 PERFORM THE TREATMENT IF IT IS DETERMINED THAT THE CONDITION OF
18 THE PATIENT REQUIRES CARE BEYOND THE ABILITIES OF THE VETERINARY
19 TECHNICIAN OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST.

20 (5) THE BOARD SHALL REVIEW AND UPDATE THE RULES
21 PROMULGATED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION AS
22 NECESSARY TO ACCOUNT FOR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PRACTICE OF
23 VETERINARY MEDICINE AND VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY.

24 (6) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY DELEGATE ANY VETERINARY
25 MEDICINE TASK TO A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST WHO IS UNDER
26 AT LEAST INDIRECT SUPERVISION BY THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN IF THE
27 LICENSED VETERINARIAN DETERMINES THE TASK IS WITHIN THE

1 VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST'S TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE AND IS
2 OTHERWISE NOT IN CONFLICT WITH THIS ARTICLE 315 OR ANY OTHER
3 STATE OR FEDERAL LAW.

4 (7) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY DELEGATE ANY VETERINARY
5 MEDICINE TASK TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS NOT A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN
6 OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST IF THE INDIVIDUAL IS UNDER THE
7 LICENSED VETERINARIAN'S DIRECT OR IMMEDIATE SUPERVISION WHEN
8 PERFORMING THE VETERINARY MEDICINE TASK.

9 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-106, **amend**
10 (5)(a) and (5)(b) as follows:

11 **12-315-106. Board of veterinary medicine - creation - powers**
12 **- rules.** (5) The board has the power to:

13 (a) Examine and determine the qualifications and fitness of
14 applicants for a license to practice veterinary medicine, ~~or~~ for registration
15 as a veterinary technician, OR FOR DESIGNATION AS A VETERINARY
16 TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST in this state;

17 (b) Pursuant to section 12-20-404, issue, renew, deny, suspend, or
18 revoke licenses to practice veterinary medicine, ~~or~~ registrations of
19 veterinary technicians, AND DESIGNATIONS OF REGISTERED VETERINARY
20 TECHNICIANS AS VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALISTS in the state or
21 otherwise discipline or fine, or both, licensees or registrants consistent
22 with this article 315 and the rules adopted by the board under this article
23 315;

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

26 **12-315-110. License renewal - waiver - rules - continuing**
27 **education.** (3) (a) (II) The board-approved continuing educational

1 program must:

2 (A) Require two hours of jurisprudence on the "Colorado
3 Veterinary Practice Act" biennially; ~~and~~

4 (B) Permit a licensee to take up to sixteen hours of continuing
5 education courses in nonbiomedical topics, which topics may include
6 client communication, management, leadership, and other topics that
7 support veterinary practice and a highly functional veterinary workforce;

8 AND

9 (C) REQUIRE TWO HOURS EACH LICENSING PERIOD ON TOPICS
10 RELATED TO THE DELEGATION OF VETERINARY MEDICINE TASKS AND THE
11 SUPERVISION OF VETERINARY TECHNICIANS, VETERINARY TECHNICIAN
12 SPECIALISTS, AND OTHER PERSONNEL.

13 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-112, **amend**
14 (1)(ee) as follows:

15 **12-315-112. Discipline of licensees.** (1) Upon receipt of a signed
16 complaint by a complainant or upon its own motion, the board may
17 proceed to a hearing in accordance with section 12-315-113. After a
18 hearing, and by a concurrence of a majority of members, the board may
19 take disciplinary or other action as authorized in section 12-20-404
20 against an applicant for a license or a licensed veterinarian for any of the
21 following reasons:

22 (ee) Failure to properly supervise a veterinary student, a veterinary
23 student preceptor, a veterinary technician, ~~or~~ A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN
24 SPECIALIST, other veterinary staff, OR OTHER INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE
25 PERFORMING VETERINARY MEDICINE TASKS UNDER A LICENSED
26 VETERINARIAN'S SUPERVISION;

27 **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-201, **amend**

1 (1) introductory portion and (2); and **add** (1)(c), (1)(d), and (1.5) as
2 follows:

3 **12-315-201. Additional board duties - rules - repeal.** (1) In
4 addition to any other duties specified in this part 2 ~~or section 12-315-106~~
5 AND SECTIONS 12-315-105.5 AND 12-315-106, the board shall:

6 (c) APPROVE NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED VETERINARY TECHNICIAN
7 SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE PURPOSES OF
8 DESIGNATING VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALISTS IN THIS STATE; AND

9 (d) ADOPT ANY RULES NECESSARY FOR THE DELEGATION OF
10 VETERINARY TASKS TO VETERINARY TECHNICIANS AND VETERINARY
11 TECHNICIAN SPECIALISTS AND FOR THE SUPERVISION OF THOSE DELEGATED
12 TASKS BY A LICENSED VETERINARIAN.

13 (1.5) THE BOARD SHALL NOT:

14 (a) CHARGE A FEE IN ADDITION TO THE REGISTRATION FEE
15 CHARGED PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-123 FOR THE DESIGNATION OF
16 VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALISTS; OR

17 (b) INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF THE REGISTRATION FEE CHARGED
18 PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-123 FOR VETERINARY TECHNICIANS WHO
19 SEEK VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST DESIGNATION TO AN AMOUNT
20 THAT IS MORE THAN THE REGISTRATION FEE THAT IS REQUIRED OF OTHER
21 VETERINARY TECHNICIANS.

22 (2) If the board does not approve a credentialing organization for
23 purposes of credentialing veterinary technicians OR VETERINARY
24 TECHNICIAN SPECIALISTS in this state pursuant to subsection (1)(a) OR
25 (1)(c) of this section because there is no credentialing organization that
26 meets the requirements set forth in subsections (1)(a)(I) to (1)(a)(IV) OR
27 SUBSECTION (1)(c) of this section or for any other reason, the board shall

1 establish by rule and administer a credentialing process for veterinary
2 technician registration OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST
3 DESIGNATION pursuant to this part 2.

4 **SECTION 9.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-203, **add**
5 (4.5) as follows:

6 **12-315-203. Application for veterinary technician registration**
7 **- qualifications - provisional registration - fee - veterinary technician**
8 **specialist designation - rules - repeal.** (4.5) (a) ON AND AFTER JANUARY
9 1, 2026, A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN MAY APPLY TO THE BOARD FOR
10 DESIGNATION AS A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST AS PART OF AN
11 APPLICATION FOR A NEW OR A RENEWAL REGISTRATION AS A VETERINARY
12 TECHNICIAN.

13 (b) TO OBTAIN A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST
14 DESIGNATION, AN APPLICANT MUST DEMONSTRATE TO THE BOARD'S
15 SATISFACTION, IN THE FORM AND MANNER SPECIFIED BY THE BOARD BY
16 RULE, THAT THE APPLICANT HAS BEEN AWARDED A SPECIALIST
17 DESIGNATION OR CERTIFICATION FROM:

18 (I) AN ACADEMY RECOGNIZED BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
19 VETERINARY TECHNICIANS IN AMERICA'S COMMITTEE OF VETERINARY
20 TECHNICIAN SPECIALITIES, OR ITS SUCCESSOR ORGANIZATION; OR

21 (II) AN ORGANIZATION THAT THE BOARD HAS DETERMINED BY
22 RULE TO HAVE EQUIVALENT TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS
23 PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-201 (1)(c).

24 **SECTION 10.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 12-315-204
25 as follows:

26 **12-315-204. Use of title restricted.** (1) On and after January 1,
27 2024, only ~~a person~~ AN INDIVIDUAL who is registered pursuant to ~~this part~~

1 2 SECTION 12-315-203 may use the title "veterinary technician" or
2 "registered veterinary technician" or the initials "VT" or "RVT".

3 (2) ON AND AFTER JANUARY 1, 2026, ONLY AN INDIVIDUAL WHO
4 HAS A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST DESIGNATION PURSUANT TO
5 SECTION 12-315-203 (4.5) MAY USE THE TITLE "VETERINARY TECHNICIAN
6 SPECIALIST" OR "REGISTERED VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST" OR
7 THE INITIALS "VTS" OR "RVTS".

8 **SECTION 11.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-206, **amend**
9 (3) as follows:

10 **12-315-206. Expiration, renewal, reinstatement, or**
11 **reactivation of a registration - inactive status - rules - definition.**

12 (3) (a) The board shall not renew, reinstate, or reactivate a registration
13 issued pursuant to section 12-315-203 (3) unless the veterinary technician
14 demonstrates to the board's satisfaction that the veterinary technician
15 maintains active credentialing with the credentialing organization. Subject
16 to board rule, the evidence may be provided by an attestation on the
17 registration application.

18 (b) THE BOARD SHALL NOT RENEW A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN'S
19 DESIGNATION AS A SPECIALIST OBTAINED PURSUANT TO SECTION
20 12-315-203 (4.5) UNLESS THE VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST
21 DEMONSTRATES TO THE BOARD'S SATISFACTION THAT THE VETERINARY
22 TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST HAS SATISFIED THE CONTINUING EDUCATION
23 REQUIREMENTS OF THE CREDENTIALING ORGANIZATION THAT ARE
24 NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN AN ACTIVE DESIGNATION OR CERTIFICATION AS
25 A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST.

26 **SECTION 12.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-207, **amend**
27 (1) introductory portion, (1)(e), and (1)(n) as follows:

1 **12-315-207. Discipline of a registered veterinary technician -**
2 **repeal.** (1) Upon receipt of a signed complaint by a complainant or upon
3 its own motion, the board may proceed to a hearing in accordance with
4 section 12-315-113. After a hearing, and by a concurrence of a majority
5 of members, the board may take disciplinary action as authorized in
6 section 12-20-404 against an applicant for a registration, ~~or~~ a registered
7 veterinary technician, OR A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST for any
8 of the following reasons:

9 (e) Unprofessional or unethical conduct or engaging in practices
10 that are in violation of generally accepted standards for practice as a
11 veterinary technician OR AS A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST or
12 prescribed by the rules of the board;

13 (n) Practicing or performing services beyond ~~a registrant's~~ THE
14 scope of competence OF A REGISTERED VETERINARY TECHNICIAN OR A
15 DESIGNATED VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST OR WITHOUT THE
16 APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF SUPERVISION BY A LICENSED VETERINARIAN;

17 **SECTION 13.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 12-315-209
18 as follows:

19 **12-315-209. Duties of licensed veterinarian - supervision of**
20 **veterinary technicians and veterinary technician specialists - rules.**

21 (1) A veterinary technician OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST is
22 authorized to provide care to animals under the ~~direction and~~
23 APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF supervision, as ~~defined~~ DETERMINED by the board
24 by rule ~~of~~ PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-105.5 (4), BY a licensed
25 veterinarian who is responsible for the veterinary technician's OR
26 VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST'S performance. The licensed
27 veterinarian ~~directing~~ DELEGATING TASKS TO and supervising the

1 veterinary technician OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST is
2 responsible for the care of the animal.

3 (2) Nothing in this part 2 prohibits a person who is not a
4 veterinary technician OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST pursuant
5 to this part 2 from performing tasks relating to animal care under the
6 ~~direction and~~ DIRECTOR IMMEDIATE supervision of a licensed veterinarian
7 who is responsible for the care of the animal.

8 **SECTION 14.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 12-315-210
9 as follows:

10 **12-315-210. Unauthorized practice - penalties.** A person who
11 practices or offers or attempts to practice as a veterinary technician
12 without an active registration issued under this part 2 OR AS A
13 VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST WITHOUT AN ACTIVE VETERINARY
14 TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST DESIGNATION UNDER THIS PART 2 is subject to
15 penalties pursuant to section 12-20-407 (1)(a).

16 **SECTION 15. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
17 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
18 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
19 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
20 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
21 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
22 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
23 November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
24 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.