

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-third General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 22-0319.01 Brita Darling x2241

**HOUSE BILL 22-1235**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**McCormick and Catlin**, Holtorf, Lontine, Lynch, McLachlan, Pelton, Roberts, Titone,  
Valdez D., Will

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

(None),

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**House Committees**

Agriculture, Livestock, & Water  
Finance  
Appropriations

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING THE CONTINUATION OF THE REGULATION OF**  
102           **VETERINARY PRACTICE BY THE STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY**  
103           **MEDICINE, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, IMPLEMENTING**  
104           **THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 2021 SUNSET REPORT ON THE**  
105           **"COLORADO VETERINARY PRACTICE ACT" BY THE**  
106           **DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY AGENCIES, ██████ ADDING**  
107           **REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR VETERINARY TECHNICIANS,**  
108           **ADDING VETERINARY TECHNICIANS TO THE STATE BOARD OF**  
109           **VETERINARY MEDICINE, ██████ ALLOWING CERTAIN UNLICENSED**  
110           **INDIVIDUALS TO ADMINISTER RABIES VACCINATIONS, AND**  
111           **MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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**Bill Summary**

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

*(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/>.)*

**Sunset Process - House Agriculture, Livestock, and Water Committee.** The bill implements recommendations of the department of regulatory agencies, as specified in the department's sunset review of and report on the "Colorado Veterinary Practice Act" (practice act), as follows:

- Continues the practice act for 11 years, until September 1, 2033 (**sections 1 and 2** of the bill);
- Requires a veterinarian to notify the board of veterinary medicine (board) if the veterinarian suffers from a physical illness or condition or a behavioral or mental health disorder that renders the veterinarian unable to practice with reasonable skill and safety (**section 6**);
- Repeals the requirement that the board send a letter of admonition by certified mail (**section 14**);
- Requires veterinarians to create a written plan for the storage, security, and disposal of patient records (**section 18**); and
- If the board has reasonable cause to believe a veterinarian is unable to practice with reasonable skill and safety due to a physical condition, authorizes the board to order the veterinarian to submit to an examination and to suspend the veterinarian's license for failing to comply with the board's order (**section 20**).

The bill makes other amendments to the practice act as follows:

- Authorizes a person who is not a licensed veterinarian in this state to administer rabies vaccinations in a clinic setting under direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian, or through the indirect supervision of a licensed veterinarian if the person is working on behalf of an animal shelter for shelter-owned animals (**sections 9 and 22**);
- Adds two members to the board who are veterinary technicians (**section 10**);
- Requires credit hours of practice act jurisprudence as part of veterinarians' continuing education program and permits veterinarians to take nonbiomedical courses as part of the program (**section 12**);
- Repeals and reenacts the veterinary peer health assistance program to reorganize existing provisions, to allow veterinary technicians access to the program, and to require

veterinary professionals, including veterinary technicians, to self-refer to the program upon arrest for a drug- or alcohol-related crime (**section 19**); and

- Creates the veterinary professional assistance program funded through licensing fees to provide counseling, education, coaching, and other services, as requested, to veterinarians and veterinary technicians concerning issues including physical and mental health and wellness, workplace concerns, and legal and financial issues (**section 19**).

**Section 21** creates the regulation of veterinary technicians. Effective January 1, 2024, a person who practices as a veterinary technician in this state must be registered by the board. To be registered, a person must have been certified by a national body. For an individual who is not yet nationally certified but who has been practicing as a veterinary technician, the board may issue a provisional registration of limited duration under specified circumstances. Veterinary technicians are subject to discipline by the board for engaging in conduct that is grounds for discipline.

**Section 21** gives title protection to veterinary technicians and grants standard registration, rule-making, and disciplinary powers to the board. **Section 21** repeals the regulation of veterinary technicians on September 1, 2033, subject to and consistent with the sunset review of the practice act.

**Sections 3 through 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, and 13 through 17** amend existing provisions throughout the practice act to include veterinary technicians, as applicable, and make other conforming amendments.

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

**SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 12-315-118 as follows:

**12-315-118. Repeal of article - subject to review.** This article 315 is repealed, effective ~~September 1, 2022~~ SEPTEMBER 1, 2033. Before the repeal, the board is scheduled for review in accordance with section 24-34-104.

**SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-34-104, **repeal** (23)(a)(II); and **add** (34)(a)(II) as follows:

**24-34-104. General assembly review of regulatory agencies**

1 **and functions for repeal, continuation, or reestablishment - legislative**  
2 **declaration - repeal.** (23) (a) The following agencies, functions, or both,  
3 are scheduled for repeal on September 1, 2022:

4 (II) ~~The state board of veterinary medicine created in article 315~~  
5 ~~of title 12;~~

6 (34) (a) The following agencies, functions, or both, are scheduled  
7 for repeal on September 1, 2033:

8 (II) THE STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE CREATED IN  
9 ARTICLE 315 OF TITLE 12.

10 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-20-404, **amend**  
11 (1)(d)(II)(M) as follows:

12 **12-20-404. Disciplinary actions - regulator powers -**  
13 **disposition of fines - mistreatment of at-risk adult.** (1) **General**  
14 **disciplinary authority.** If a regulator determines that an applicant,  
15 licensee, certificate holder, or registrant has committed an act or engaged  
16 in conduct that constitutes grounds for discipline or unprofessional  
17 conduct under a part or article of this title 12 governing the particular  
18 profession or occupation, the regulator may:

19 (d) (II) A regulator is not authorized under this subsection (1)(d)  
20 to refuse to renew the license, certification, or registration of a licensee,  
21 certificate holder, or registrant regulated under the following:

22 (M) Article 315 of this title 12 concerning veterinarians AND  
23 VETERINARY TECHNICIANS.

24 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-20-407, **amend**  
25 (1)(a)(V)(W) as follows:

26 **12-20-407. Unauthorized practice of profession or occupation**  
27 **- penalties - exclusions.** (1) (a) A person commits a class 2 misdemeanor

1 and shall be punished as provided in section 18-1.3-501 if the person:

2 (V) Practices or offers or attempts to practice any of the following  
3 professions or occupations without an active license, certification, or  
4 registration issued under the part or article of this title 12 governing the  
5 particular profession or occupation:

6 (W) Veterinary medicine OR AS A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN, as  
7 regulated under article 315 of this title 12.

8 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-20-408, **amend**  
9 (1)(f) as follows:

10 **12-20-408. Judicial review.** (1) Except as specified in subsection  
11 (2) of this section, the court of appeals has initial jurisdiction to review  
12 all final actions and orders of a regulator that are subject to judicial  
13 review and shall conduct the judicial review proceedings in accordance  
14 with section 24-4-106 (11); except that, with regard only to  
15 cease-and-desist orders, a district court of competent jurisdiction has  
16 initial jurisdiction to review a final action or order of a regulator that is  
17 subject to judicial review and shall conduct the judicial review  
18 proceedings in accordance with section 24-4-106 (3) for the following:

19 (f) Article 315 of this title 12 concerning veterinarians AND  
20 VETERINARY TECHNICIANS.

21 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-30-108, **repeal**  
22 (4)(b)(II) as follows:

23 **12-30-108. Confidential agreement to limit practice - violation**  
24 **grounds for discipline.** (4) (b) Subsection (1)(a) of this section  
25 regarding notification for confidential agreements does not apply to:

26 (II) ~~Article 315 of this title 12 concerning veterinarians.~~

27 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-30-109, **amend**

1 (4)(f) as follows:

2 **12-30-109. Prescriptions - limitations - definition - rules.**

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

4 (f) A veterinarian licensed pursuant to PART 1 OF article 315 of  
5 this title 12.

6 **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-104, **amend**  
7 (11); and **add** (10.5), (21.5), (24), and (25) as follows:

8 **12-315-104. Definitions.** As used in this article 315, unless the  
9 context otherwise requires:

10 (10.5) "INDIRECT SUPERVISION" MEANS SUPERVISION IN WHICH THE  
11 SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN DIRECTS OR SUPERVISES THE  
12 AUTHORIZED DELEGATED TREATMENT OR COLLECTION OF DIAGNOSTIC  
13 INFORMATION OF A PATIENT AT VETERINARY PREMISES WITHOUT BEING ON  
14 THE PREMISES BUT BEING READILY AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNICATION.

15 (11) "Licensed veterinarian" means a person licensed pursuant to  
16 this ~~article 315~~ PART 1.

17 (21.5) "VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL" MEANS A VETERINARIAN  
18 LICENSED PURSUANT TO PART 1 OF THIS ARTICLE 315 AND A VETERINARY  
19 TECHNICIAN REGISTERED PURSUANT TO PART 2 OF THIS ARTICLE 315.

20 (24) "VETERINARY TECHNICIAN" MEANS A VETERINARY  
21 TECHNICIAN REGISTERED PURSUANT TO PART 2 OF THIS ARTICLE 315.

22 (25) "VETERINARY TECHNICIAN CREDENTIALING ORGANIZATION"  
23 OR "CREDENTIALING ORGANIZATION" MEANS:

24 (a) A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN CREDENTIALING ORGANIZATION  
25 APPROVED BY THE BOARD PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-201 TO  
26 CREDENTIAL VETERINARY TECHNICIANS IN THIS STATE; OR

27 (b) THE BOARD IF, PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-201 (2), NO

1     CREDENTIALING ORGANIZATION IS APPROVED.

2             **SECTION 9.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-105, **amend**  
3 (1) introductory portion and (1)(b); **repeal** (1)(k); and **add** (1)(q) as  
4 follows:

5             **12-315-105. License requirements and exceptions - definitions**  
6 **- rules.** (1) ~~No~~ A person ~~may~~ SHALL NOT practice veterinary medicine in  
7 this state if the person is not a licensed veterinarian. ~~No~~ A person ~~may~~  
8 SHALL NOT practice artificial insemination or ova transplantation of cattle  
9 or other animal species in this state except in accordance with section  
10 12-315-106 (5)(c). This article 315 does not prohibit:

11             (b) A person who is a ~~regular~~ VETERINARY student OR  
12 VETERINARY STUDENT PRECEPTOR in an approved school of veterinary  
13 medicine from performing duties or actions ~~assigned by the student's~~  
14 ~~instructors or working under the direct supervision of a licensed~~  
15 ~~veterinarian~~ AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 12-315-116;

16             (k) ~~A veterinary student or veterinary student preceptor from~~  
17 ~~performing those acts permitted by this article 315;~~

18             (q) (I) (A) A PERSON FROM ADMINISTERING A RABIES VACCINE TO  
19 AN ANIMAL IF THE PERSON IS UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION OF A  
20 LICENSED VETERINARIAN AND HAS BEEN TRAINED IN RABIES VACCINE  
21 STORAGE, HANDLING, AND ADMINISTRATION AND IN THE MANAGEMENT OF  
22 ADVERSE EVENTS; OR

23             (B) A PERSON WORKING ON BEHALF OF AN ANIMAL SHELTER FROM  
24 ADMINISTERING A RABIES VACCINE TO SHELTER-OWNED ANIMALS IF THE  
25 PERSON IS UNDER THE INDIRECT SUPERVISION OF A LICENSED  
26 VETERINARIAN AND HAS BEEN TRAINED IN RABIES VACCINE STORAGE,  
27 HANDLING, AND ADMINISTRATION AND IN THE MANAGEMENT OF ADVERSE

1 EVENTS.

2 (II) THE VETERINARIAN SIGNING THE RABIES VACCINATION  
3 CERTIFICATE SHALL ENSURE THAT THE PERSON WHO ADMINISTERED THE  
4 VACCINE PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (1)(q) IS IDENTIFIED ON THE  
5 CERTIFICATE.

6 **SECTION 10.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-106, **amend**  
7 (1), (2), (5)(a), (5)(b), (5)(d), (5)(g), and (7) as follows:

8 **12-315-106. Board of veterinary medicine - creation - powers**  
9 **- rules.** (1) There is hereby created a state board of veterinary medicine  
10 consisting of ~~seven~~ NINE members appointed by the governor. Each  
11 member shall be appointed for a term of four years. The governor shall  
12 appoint members of the board from qualified persons as described in  
13 subsection (2) of this section. The governor shall appoint members to fill  
14 vacancies on the board caused by death, resignation, or removal for the  
15 balance of the unexpired term. ~~No~~ A person shall NOT serve more than  
16 two consecutive four-year terms. A person appointed to serve out the  
17 balance of an unexpired term may be reappointed for an additional  
18 consecutive four-year term. Members of the board may remain on the  
19 board until a successor is appointed.

20 (2) The governor shall appoint:

21 (a) Five members to the board who:

22 (I) Are graduates of a school of veterinary medicine; ~~who~~

23 (II) Are residents of this state; and ~~who~~

24 (III) Have been licensed to practice veterinary medicine in this  
25 state for the five years preceding the time of the appointment; ~~The~~  
26 ~~governor shall appoint~~

27 (b) NOT LATER THAN MARCH 1, 2023, TWO MEMBERS TO THE



1 BOARD WHO ARE RESIDENTS OF THIS STATE AND WHO, FOR AT LEAST FIVE  
2 YEARS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE TIME OF APPOINTMENT:

3 (I) HAVE BEEN CERTIFIED BY A COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF  
4 VETERINARY TECHNICIANS; AND

5 (II) HAVE BEEN PRACTICING AS VETERINARY TECHNICIANS IN THIS  
6 STATE; AND

7 (c) Two members to the board from the public at large who have  
8 no financial or professional association with the veterinary profession.

9 (5) The board has the power to:

10 (a) Examine and determine the qualifications and fitness of  
11 applicants for a license to practice veterinary medicine OR FOR  
12 REGISTRATION AS A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN in this state;

13 (b) Pursuant to section 12-20-404, issue, renew, deny, suspend, or  
14 revoke licenses to practice veterinary medicine OR REGISTRATIONS OF  
15 VETERINARY TECHNICIANS in the state or otherwise discipline or fine, or  
16 both, licensees OR REGISTRANTS consistent with this article 315 and the  
17 rules adopted by the board under this article 315;

18 (d) Establish, pursuant to section 12-20-105, and publish annually  
19 a schedule of fees for licensing and registration of veterinarians AND  
20 VETERINARY TECHNICIANS. The board shall base the fee on its anticipated  
21 financial requirements for the year.

22 (g) Adopt, amend, or repeal rules in accordance with section  
23 12-20-204. The board shall adopt rules to establish a uniform system and  
24 schedule of fines that it may impose on licensees OR REGISTRANTS for  
25 violations of this article 315 or of rules adopted pursuant to this article  
26 315.

27 (7) The powers of the board are granted to enable the board to

1 effectively supervise the practice of veterinary medicine AND OF  
2 VETERINARY TECHNICIANS and are to be construed liberally to accomplish  
3 this objective.

4 **SECTION 11.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-107, **amend**  
5 (3)(a) as follows:

6 **12-315-107. Application for license - qualifications - rules.**

7 (3) The board may deny a license or may grant a license subject to terms  
8 of probation if the board determines that an applicant for a license:

9 (a) Does not possess the qualifications required by this ~~article 315~~  
10 PART 1;

11 **SECTION 12.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-110, **amend**  
12 (1) and (3)(a) as follows:

13 **12-315-110. License renewal - waiver - rules - continuing**  
14 **education.** (1) All licenses issued pursuant to this ~~article 315~~ PART 1 are  
15 subject to the renewal, expiration, reinstatement, and delinquency fee  
16 provisions specified in section 12-20-202 (1) and (2). A person whose  
17 license expires is subject to the penalties provided in this ~~article 315~~ PART  
18 1 or section 12-20-202 (1).

19 (3) (a) (I) In order to obtain license renewal, each licensee, except  
20 as otherwise provided, must complete a board-approved veterinary  
21 continuing educational program of at least thirty-two hours biennially.  
22 The courses may be taken at any time during the period since the license  
23 was last renewed and before the license is due to be renewed. The  
24 licensee shall provide satisfactory proof of the completion of all  
25 delinquent continuing education requirements. For good cause, the board  
26 may prescribe the type and character of continuing education courses to  
27 be taken by any doctor of veterinary medicine in order to comply with the

1 requirements of this ~~article 315~~ PART 1.

2 (II) THE BOARD-APPROVED CONTINUING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM  
3 MUST:

4 (A) REQUIRE TWO HOURS OF JURISPRUDENCE ON THE "COLORADO  
5 VETERINARY PRACTICE ACT" BIENNIALLY; AND

6 (B) PERMIT A LICENSEE TO TAKE UP TO SIXTEEN HOURS OF  
7 CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES IN NONBIOMEDICAL TOPICS, WHICH  
8 TOPICS MAY INCLUDE CLIENT COMMUNICATION, MANAGEMENT,  
9 LEADERSHIP, AND OTHER TOPICS THAT SUPPORT VETERINARY PRACTICE  
10 AND A HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL VETERINARY WORKFORCE.

11 **SECTION 13.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-111, **amend**  
12 (2) as follows:

13 **12-315-111. Inactive license.** (2) The board may pursue  
14 disciplinary proceedings pursuant to section 12-315-112 against a  
15 veterinarian whose license is in inactive status pursuant to this section for  
16 conduct that violates this ~~article 315~~ PART 1 that the person engages in  
17 while in inactive status.

18 **SECTION 14.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-112, **amend**  
19 (1) introductory portion, (1)(a), (1)(p), (1)(ee), (2), (4), and (6) as follows:

20 **12-315-112. Discipline of licensees.** (1) Upon receipt of a signed  
21 complaint by a complainant or upon its own motion, the board may  
22 proceed to a hearing in ~~conformity~~ ACCORDANCE with section  
23 12-315-113. After a hearing, and by a concurrence of a majority of  
24 members, the board may take disciplinary or other action as authorized in  
25 section 12-20-404 against an applicant FOR A LICENSE or a licensed  
26 veterinarian for any of the following reasons:

27 (a) Violation of any ~~provisions~~ PROVISION of this article 315, an

1 applicable provision of article 20 or 30 of this title 12, or any ~~rules~~ RULE  
2 OR ORDER of the board;

3 (p) Conviction of a crime in the courts of this state or of a crime  
4 in any other state, any territory, or any other country for an offense related  
5 to the conduct regulated by this ~~article 315~~ PART 1, regardless of whether  
6 the sentence is deferred. ~~For the purposes of AS USED IN~~ this subsection  
7 (1)(p), "CONVICTION" INCLUDES a plea of guilty or a plea of nolo  
8 contendere accepted by the court. ~~shall be considered as a conviction.~~

9 (ee) Failure to properly supervise a veterinary student, A  
10 VETERINARY STUDENT PRECEPTOR, A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN, or OTHER  
11 veterinary staff;

12 (2) The board may send a letter of admonition ~~by certified mail,~~  
13 to a licensee under the circumstances specified in and in accordance with  
14 section 12-20-404 (4).

15 (4) The record of conviction of a felony in a court of competent  
16 jurisdiction shall be sufficient evidence for the disciplinary action to be  
17 taken as may be deemed proper by the board. For the purposes of this  
18 ~~article 315~~ PART 1, a conviction shall be deemed to be a conviction that  
19 has been upheld by the highest appellate court having jurisdiction or a  
20 conviction upon which the time for filing an appeal has passed.

21 (6) In addition to any other penalty that may be imposed pursuant  
22 to this section, any person violating ~~any provision of this article 315~~ PART  
23 1 or any rules promulgated pursuant to this ~~article 315~~ PART 1 may be  
24 fined not less than one hundred dollars nor more than one thousand  
25 dollars for any such violation.

26 **SECTION 15.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-114, **amend**  
27 (2) and (3) as follows:

1           **12-315-114. Unauthorized practice - penalties.** (2) Any person  
2 who practices or offers or attempts to practice veterinary medicine  
3 without an active license issued under this ~~article 315~~ PART 1 is subject  
4 to penalties pursuant to section 12-20-407 (1)(a).

5           (3) The board or a citizen of this state may bring an action to  
6 enjoin a person from practicing veterinary medicine without a currently  
7 valid license. If the court finds that the person is violating, or is  
8 threatening to violate, this ~~article 315, it~~ PART 1, THE COURT may enter an  
9 injunction restraining ~~him or her~~ THE PERSON from the unlawful acts.

10           **SECTION 16.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-115, **amend**  
11 (2) and (3) as follows:

12           **12-315-115. Abandonment of animals - definition.** (2) The  
13 giving of notice to the owner, or the agent of the owner, of the animal by  
14 the licensed veterinarian, as provided in subsection (1) of this section,  
15 shall relieve the licensed veterinarian and any custodian to whom the  
16 animal may be given of any further liability for disposal. The procedure  
17 by the licensed veterinarian shall not constitute grounds for disciplining  
18 procedure under this ~~article 315~~ PART 1.

19           (3) ~~For the purpose of this article 315~~ AS USED IN THIS SECTION,  
20 the term "abandoned" means to forsake entirely, or to neglect or refuse to  
21 provide or perform the legal obligations for care and support of an animal  
22 by its owner or the owner's agent. Abandonment constitutes the  
23 relinquishment of all rights and claims by the owner to the animal.

24           **SECTION 17.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-116, **amend**  
25 (1) introductory portion and (2) as follows:

26           **12-315-116. Veterinary students and veterinary student**  
27 **preceptors.** (1) All duties OR ACTIONS performed by a veterinary student

1 OR VETERINARY STUDENT PRECEPTOR must be ASSIGNED BY THE  
2 STUDENT'S INSTRUCTOR OR BE PERFORMED under the direct supervision of  
3 a licensed veterinarian. If the student does not conform to the following  
4 requirements, the licensed veterinarian is in violation of this ~~article 315~~  
5 PART 1. A veterinary student OR VETERINARY STUDENT PRECEPTOR may:  
6 (2) It is unlawful for a veterinary student OR VETERINARY  
7 STUDENT PRECEPTOR to participate in the operation of a branch office,  
8 clinic, VETERINARY PREMISES, or allied establishment unless the  
9 veterinary student OR VETERINARY STUDENT PRECEPTOR is under the  
10 direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

11 **SECTION 18.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-119, **amend**  
12 (3)(b) as follows:

13 **12-315-119. Veterinary records in custody of animal care**  
14 **providers - definition - rules.** (3) (b) (I) All practicing veterinarians in  
15 this state shall maintain accurate records for every new or existing  
16 veterinarian-client-patient relationship. In the animal patient records, the  
17 licensed veterinarian shall justify and describe the assessment, diagnosis,  
18 and treatment administered or prescribed and all medications and dosages  
19 prescribed in a legible, written, printed, or electronically prepared  
20 document that is unalterable. The licensed veterinarian shall prepare the  
21 records in a manner that allows any subsequent evaluation of the same  
22 animal patient record to yield comprehensive medical, patient, and  
23 veterinarian identifying information. Licensed veterinarians shall  
24 maintain animal patient records for a minimum of three years after the  
25 animal patient's last medical examination.

26 (II) AS PART OF THE REQUIREMENT IN SUBSECTION (3)(b)(I) OF  
27 THIS SECTION FOR ALL PRACTICING VETERINARIANS IN THIS STATE TO

1 MAINTAIN ACCURATE RECORDS, EACH VETERINARIAN SHALL CREATE A  
2 WRITTEN PLAN FOR THE STORAGE, SECURITY, AND DISPOSAL OF PATIENT  
3 RECORDS TO ENSURE THAT PATIENT RECORDS ARE SECURELY STORED AND  
4 DISPOSED OF WHEN NECESSARY.

5 **SECTION 19.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal and reenact,**  
6 **with amendments,** 12-315-123 as follows:

7 **12-315-123. Veterinary peer health assistance program -**  
8 **fees - administration - rules. (1) Veterinary peer health assistance**  
9 **program. (a)** THERE IS CREATED THE VETERINARY PEER HEALTH  
10 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO VETERINARY  
11 PROFESSIONALS NEEDING HELP IN DEALING WITH PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL,  
12 OR PSYCHOLOGICAL CONDITIONS THAT MAY BE DETRIMENTAL TO THEIR  
13 ABILITY TO PRACTICE UNDER THIS ARTICLE 315. THE BOARD SHALL SELECT  
14 ONE OR MORE VETERINARY PEER HEALTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
15 DESIGNATED PROVIDERS. TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR DESIGNATION BY THE  
16 BOARD, A PROVIDER MUST:

17 (I) PROVIDE FOR THE EDUCATION OF VETERINARY PROFESSIONALS  
18 WITH RESPECT TO THE RECOGNITION AND PREVENTION OF PHYSICAL,  
19 EMOTIONAL, AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND PROVIDE FOR  
20 INTERVENTION WHEN NECESSARY OR UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES  
21 ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD BY RULE;

22 (II) OFFER ASSISTANCE TO A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL IN  
23 IDENTIFYING PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, OR PSYCHOLOGICAL CONDITIONS;

24 (III) EVALUATE THE EXTENT OF THE PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, OR  
25 PSYCHOLOGICAL CONDITION AND REFER THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL  
26 FOR APPROPRIATE TREATMENT;

27 (IV) MONITOR THE STATUS OF A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL

1 REFERRED FOR TREATMENT;

2 (V) PROVIDE COUNSELING AND SUPPORT FOR THE VETERINARY  
3 PROFESSIONAL AND FOR THE FAMILY OF ANY VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL  
4 REFERRED FOR TREATMENT;

5 (VI) AGREE TO RECEIVE REFERRALS FROM THE BOARD; AND

6 (VII) AGREE TO MAKE ITS SERVICES AVAILABLE TO ALL  
7 REGULATED VETERINARY PROFESSIONALS IN COLORADO.

8 (b) UPON RECEIPT OF A SIGNED COMPLAINT BY A COMPLAINANT,  
9 THE BOARD MAY REQUIRE A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL TO PARTICIPATE  
10 IN THE VETERINARY PEER HEALTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND TO ENTER  
11 INTO A STIPULATION WITH THE BOARD PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-20-405  
12 (3) BEFORE PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM. THE AGREEMENT MUST  
13 CONTAIN SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS AND GOALS TO BE MET BY THE  
14 PARTICIPANT, INCLUDING THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE PROGRAM  
15 WILL BE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED OR TERMINATED, AND A PROVISION  
16 THAT A FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS AND GOALS IS TO  
17 BE PROMPTLY REPORTED TO THE BOARD AND THAT FAILURE WILL RESULT  
18 IN DISCIPLINARY ACTION BY THE BOARD.

19 (c) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTIONS 12-315-112, 12-315-207, AND  
20 24-4-104, THE BOARD MAY IMMEDIATELY SUSPEND THE LICENSE OR  
21 REGISTRATION OF ANY VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL WHO IS REFERRED TO  
22 THE VETERINARY PEER HEALTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. IF THE  
23 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL OBJECTS TO THE SUSPENSION, THE  
24 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL MAY SUBMIT A WRITTEN REQUEST TO THE  
25 BOARD FOR A FORMAL HEARING ON THE SUSPENSION WITHIN TEN DAYS  
26 AFTER RECEIVING NOTICE OF THE SUSPENSION, AND THE BOARD SHALL  
27 GRANT THE REQUEST. IN THE HEARING, THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL




1 BEARS THE BURDEN OF PROVING THAT THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL'S  
2 LICENSE OR REGISTRATION SHOULD NOT BE SUSPENDED.

3 (d) ANY VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL WHO IS ACCEPTED INTO THE  
4 VETERINARY PEER HEALTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINARY  
5 ACTION BY THE BOARD SHALL AFFIRM THAT, TO THE BEST OF THE  
6 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL'S KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION, AND BELIEF,  
7 THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL KNOWS OF NO INSTANCE IN WHICH THE  
8 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL HAS VIOLATED THIS ARTICLE 315 OR THE  
9 RULES OF THE BOARD, EXCEPT IN THOSE INSTANCES AFFECTED BY THE  
10 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL'S PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, OR PSYCHOLOGICAL  
11 CONDITION.

12 (e) A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL WHO IS ARRESTED FOR A DRUG-  
13 OR ALCOHOL-RELATED OFFENSE SHALL SELF-REFER TO THE VETERINARY  
14 PEER HEALTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WITHIN THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE  
15 ARREST FOR AN EVALUATION AND REFERRAL TO APPROPRIATE  
16 TREATMENT, IF NECESSARY. IF THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL  
17 SELF-REFERS, THE EVALUATION BY THE VETERINARY PEER HEALTH  
18 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IS CONFIDENTIAL AND CANNOT BE USED AS  
19 EVIDENCE IN ANY PROCEEDING OTHER THAN A PROCEEDING BEFORE THE  
20 BOARD. A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL'S FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS  
21 SUBSECTION (1)(e), ALONE, IS NOT GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE UNDER  
22 SECTION 12-315-112 OR 12-315-207, UNLESS THE VETERINARY  
23 PROFESSIONAL HAS ALSO COMMITTED AN ACT OR OMISSION SPECIFIED IN  
24 THIS ARTICLE 315.

25 (f) AS A CONDITION OF LICENSURE OR REGISTRATION AND  
26 RENEWAL OF A LICENSE OR REGISTRATION IN THIS STATE, EVERY  
27 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL APPLYING FOR A NEW LICENSE OR

1 REGISTRATION OR TO RENEW A LICENSE OR REGISTRATION SHALL PAY TO  
2 THE BOARD, FOR USE BY THE ADMINISTERING ENTITY SELECTED BY THE  
3 BOARD PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION, A FEE IN AN  
4 AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FORTY DOLLARS PER YEAR, WHICH MAXIMUM  
5 AMOUNT MAY BE ADJUSTED ON JANUARY 1, 2012, AND ANNUALLY  
6 THEREAFTER BY THE BOARD TO REFLECT CHANGES IN THE UNITED STATES  
7 BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR  
8 DENVER-AURORA-LAKEWOOD FOR ALL URBAN CONSUMERS OR GOODS, OR  
9 ITS SUCCESSOR INDEX. THE BOARD SHALL FORWARD THE FEE TO THE  
10 CHOSEN ADMINISTERING ENTITY FOR USE IN SUPPORTING VETERINARY  
11 PROFESSIONALS THROUGH THE VETERINARY PEER HEALTH ASSISTANCE  
12 PROGRAM.

13   
14 (2) **Administering entity.** (a) THE BOARD MAY SELECT AN ENTITY  
15 TO ADMINISTER THE VETERINARY PEER HEALTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.  
16 THE ADMINISTERING ENTITY MUST BE A NONPROFIT PRIVATE FOUNDATION  
17 THAT IS QUALIFIED UNDER SECTION 501 (c)(3) OF THE FEDERAL "INTERNAL  
18 REVENUE CODE OF 1986", AS AMENDED, AND THAT IS DEDICATED TO  
19 PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR CHARITABLE, BENEVOLENT, EDUCATIONAL, AND  
20 SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES THAT ARE RELATED TO VETERINARY MEDICINE,  
21 VETERINARY MEDICAL EDUCATION, VETERINARY MEDICAL RESEARCH AND  
22 SCIENCE, AND OTHER VETERINARY MEDICAL CHARITABLE PURPOSES.

23 (b) THE ADMINISTERING ENTITY SHALL:  
24 (I) DISTRIBUTE THE MONEY COLLECTED BY THE BOARD, LESS  
25 EXPENSES, TO THE DESIGNATED PROVIDERS, AS DIRECTED BY THE BOARD;  
26 (II) PROVIDE AN ANNUAL ACCOUNTING TO THE BOARD OF ALL  
27 AMOUNTS COLLECTED, EXPENSES INCURRED, AND AMOUNTS DISBURSED;

1 AND

2 (III) POST A SURETY PERFORMANCE BOND IN AN AMOUNT  
3 SPECIFIED BY THE BOARD TO SECURE PERFORMANCE UNDER THE  
4 REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION. THE ADMINISTERING ENTITY MAY  
5 RECOVER THE ACTUAL ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS INCURRED IN PERFORMING  
6 ITS DUTIES UNDER THIS SECTION IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TEN  
7 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT COLLECTED.

8 (c) THE BOARD SHALL COLLECT THE REQUIRED ANNUAL PAYMENTS  
9 PAYABLE TO THE ADMINISTERING ENTITY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE  
10 ADMINISTERING ENTITY AND SHALL TRANSFER ALL THE PAYMENTS TO THE  
11 ADMINISTERING ENTITY. ALL REQUIRED ANNUAL PAYMENTS COLLECTED  
12 OR DUE TO THE BOARD FOR EACH STATE FISCAL YEAR ARE CUSTODIAL  
13 FUNDS THAT ARE NOT SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION BY THE GENERAL  
14 ASSEMBLY, AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF PAYMENTS TO THE ADMINISTERING  
15 ENTITY OR EXPENDITURE OF THE PAYMENTS BY THE ADMINISTERING  
16 ENTITY DOES NOT CONSTITUTE STATE FISCAL YEAR SPENDING FOR  
17 PURPOSES OF SECTION 20 OF ARTICLE X OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION.

18 (3) **Liability limitations.** NOTHING IN THIS SECTION CREATES ANY  
19 LIABILITY ON THE BOARD OR THE STATE OF COLORADO FOR THE ACTIONS  
20 OF THE BOARD IN MAKING GRANTS TO THE VETERINARY PEER HEALTH  
21 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, AND A CIVIL ACTION SHALL NOT BE BROUGHT OR  
22 MAINTAINED AGAINST THE BOARD OR THE STATE FOR AN INJURY ALLEGED  
23 TO HAVE BEEN THE RESULT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF ANY STATE-FUNDED  
24 VETERINARY PEER HEALTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OR THE RESULT OF  
25 AN ACT OR OMISSION OF A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL PARTICIPATING IN  
26 OR REFERRED BY A STATE-FUNDED VETERINARY PEER HEALTH ASSISTANCE  
27 PROGRAM. HOWEVER, THE STATE REMAINS LIABLE UNDER THE

1 "COLORADO GOVERNMENTAL IMMUNITY ACT", ARTICLE 10 OF TITLE 24,  
2 IF AN INJURY ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN THE RESULT OF AN ACT OR OMISSION  
3 OF A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL PARTICIPATING IN OR REFERRED TO A  
4 STATE-FUNDED VETERINARY PEER HEALTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
5 OCCURRED WHILE THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL WAS PERFORMING  
6 DUTIES AS AN EMPLOYEE OF THE STATE.

7 (4) **Rules.** THE BOARD MAY PROMULGATE RULES NECESSARY TO  
8 IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.

9 **SECTION 20.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-124, **amend**  
10 (1)(a) as follows:

11 **12-315-124. Evaluations of licensees - behavioral health -**  
12 **mental health - physical conditions.** (1) (a) (I) If, upon receipt of a  
13 signed complaint by a complainant, the board has reasonable cause to  
14 believe that a licensed veterinarian is unable to practice veterinary  
15 medicine with reasonable skill and safety to patients or clients due to a  
16 PHYSICAL CONDITION OR A behavioral HEALTH, mental health, or  
17 substance use disorder, the board may require in writing that the licensed  
18 veterinarian submit to an examination to evaluate:

19 (A) The existence and extent of the PHYSICAL CONDITION OR THE  
20 behavioral HEALTH, mental health, or substance use disorder; and

21 (B) Any impact the PHYSICAL CONDITION OR THE behavioral  
22 HEALTH, mental health, or substance use disorder has on the licensed  
23 veterinarian's ability to practice veterinary medicine with reasonable skill  
24 and safety to patients and clients.

25 (II) A qualified professional employed by or contracting with a  
26 ~~veterinarian~~ THE VETERINARY peer health assistance program that the  
27 board has selected as a designated provider under section 12-315-123

1 shall conduct an examination required by subsection (1)(a)(I) of this  
2 section.

3 **SECTION 21.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 2 to article  
4 315 of title 12 as follows:

5 PART 2

6 VETERINARY TECHNICIANS

7 **12-315-201. Additional board duties - rules - repeal.** (1) IN  
8 ADDITION TO ANY OTHER DUTIES SPECIFIED IN THIS PART 2 OR SECTION  
9 12-315-106, THE BOARD SHALL:

10 (a) APPROVE A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED VETERINARY  
11 TECHNICIAN CREDENTIALING ORGANIZATION FOR PURPOSES OF  
12 CREDENTIALING VETERINARY TECHNICIANS IN THIS STATE. THE  
13 CREDENTIALING ORGANIZATION APPROVED BY THE BOARD MUST:

14 (I) REQUIRE THE COMPLETION OF AN AMERICAN VETERINARY  
15 MEDICAL ASSOCIATION-ACCREDITED PROGRAM FOR VETERINARY  
16 TECHNICIANS;

17 (II) REQUIRE THAT AN APPLICANT PASS A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN  
18 NATIONAL EXAMINATION APPROVED BY THE BOARD;

19 (III) REQUIRE CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR VETERINARY  
20 TECHNICIANS; AND

21 (IV) (A) PERMIT CREDENTIALING OF PROVISIONAL REGISTRANTS  
22 WHO MEET THE WORK EXPERIENCE AND TESTING REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED  
23 IN SECTION 12-315-203 (4).

24 (B) THIS SUBSECTION (1)(a)(IV) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1,  
25 2028.

26 (b) RECEIVE COMPLAINTS, CONDUCT HEARINGS IN ACCORDANCE  
27 WITH THIS PART 2 AND SECTION 12-315-113, AND TAKE DISCIPLINARY OR

1 OTHER ACTIONS PURSUANT TO THIS PART 2 AND SECTION 12-20-404.

2 (2) IF THE BOARD DOES NOT APPROVE A CREDENTIALING  
3 ORGANIZATION FOR PURPOSES OF CREDENTIALING VETERINARY  
4 TECHNICIANS IN THIS STATE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS  
5 SECTION BECAUSE THERE IS NO CREDENTIALING ORGANIZATION THAT  
6 MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN SUBSECTIONS (1)(a)(I) TO  
7 (1)(a)(IV) OF THIS SECTION OR FOR ANY OTHER REASON, THE BOARD  
8 SHALL ESTABLISH BY RULE AND ADMINISTER A CREDENTIALING PROCESS  
9 FOR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN REGISTRATION PURSUANT TO THIS PART 2.

10 **12-315-202. Registration required - rules.** EFFECTIVE JANUARY  
11 1, 2024, A PERSON WHO PRACTICES AS A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN IN THIS  
12 STATE MUST BE REGISTERED BY THE BOARD PURSUANT TO THIS PART 2  
13 AND RULES ADOPTED BY THE BOARD FOR THE REGISTRATION OF  
14 VETERINARY TECHNICIANS.

15 **12-315-203. Application for veterinary technician registration**  
16 **- qualifications - provisional registration - fee - rules - repeal.** (1) A  
17 PERSON WHO DESIRES TO PRACTICE AS A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN IN THIS  
18 STATE MUST FILE AN APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION WITH THE BOARD,  
19 ALONG WITH THE REQUIRED APPLICATION FEE, IN THE MANNER  
20 DETERMINED BY THE BOARD.

21 (2) TO BE QUALIFIED FOR REGISTRATION, AN APPLICANT MUST:

22 (a) BE AT LEAST EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE; AND

23 (b) DEMONSTRATE TO THE BOARD'S SATISFACTION THAT THE  
24 APPLICANT HAS OBTAINED AND MAINTAINS IN GOOD STANDING  
25 CREDENTIALING AS A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN FROM THE VETERINARY  
26 TECHNICIAN CREDENTIALING ORGANIZATION.

27 (3) COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2023, THE BOARD SHALL ISSUE A

1 REGISTRATION TO A QUALIFIED APPLICANT WHO MEETS THE  
2 REQUIREMENTS AND QUALIFICATIONS OF THIS SECTION AND BOARD RULES;  
3 EXCEPT THAT THE BOARD MAY DENY REGISTRATION TO AN APPLICANT  
4 WHO HAS COMMITTED AN ACT THAT WOULD BE GROUNDS FOR  
5 DISCIPLINARY ACTION PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-207.

6 (4) (a) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (2)(b) OF THIS SECTION,  
7 A PERSON WORKING IN THE ROLE OF A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN ON AND  
8 AFTER JANUARY 1, 2023, WHO DOES NOT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS SET  
9 FORTH IN SUBSECTION (2)(b) OF THIS SECTION MAY FILE WITH THE BOARD  
10 AN APPLICATION FOR A PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION NOT LATER THAN  
11 JANUARY 1, 2024, ALONG WITH THE REQUIRED APPLICATION FEE, IN THE  
12 MANNER DETERMINED BY THE BOARD.

13 (b) A PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION ISSUED PURSUANT TO THIS  
14 SUBSECTION (4) MAY BE RENEWED, AS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD BY  
15 RULE. THE PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION EXPIRES THE EARLIER OF:

16 (I) THE DATE ON WHICH THE BOARD ISSUES A REGISTRATION TO AN  
17 APPLICANT PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION;

18 (II) TWENTY-EIGHT DAYS AFTER THE PERSON HAS SATISFIED THE  
19 REQUIREMENTS IN SUBSECTION (4)(c)(I) OR (4)(c)(II) OF THIS SECTION  
20 AND IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY TO THE CREDENTIALING ORGANIZATION FOR  
21 CREDENTIALING IN THIS STATE;

22 (III) THE DATE ON WHICH THE BOARD DENIES THE PROVISIONAL  
23 REGISTRATION RENEWAL APPLICATION; OR

24 (IV) JANUARY 1, 2028.

25 (c) THE CREDENTIALING ORGANIZATION SHALL ACCEPT AS  
26 SATISFACTION OF EDUCATIONAL AND TESTING REQUIREMENTS FOR  
27 CREDENTIALING A PERSON HOLDING A PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION IN

1 GOOD STANDING WHO APPLIES FOR CREDENTIALING NOT LATER THAN  
2 DECEMBER 31, 2027, AND WHO DEMONSTRATES TO THE CREDENTIALING  
3 ORGANIZATION'S SATISFACTION THAT THE PROVISIONAL REGISTRANT HAS  
4 EITHER:

5 (I) OBTAINED AT LEAST SIX THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED HOURS OF  
6 WORK EXPERIENCE EQUIVALENT TO THE WORK PERFORMED BY A  
7 VETERINARY TECHNICIAN AND HAS PASSED A NATIONAL VETERINARY  
8 TECHNICIAN EXAMINATION APPROVED BY THE BOARD PURSUANT TO  
9 SECTION 12-315-201 (1)(a)(II); OR

10 (II) HAS OBTAINED AT LEAST NINE THOUSAND HOURS OF WORK  
11 EXPERIENCE EQUIVALENT TO THE WORK PERFORMED BY A VETERINARY  
12 TECHNICIAN.

13 (d) A PERSON HOLDING A PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION IS SUBJECT  
14 TO DISCIPLINE PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-207.

15 (e) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION IN THIS SUBSECTION  
16 (4) TO THE CONTRARY, THE BOARD MAY ESTABLISH, BY RULE, A PROCESS  
17 FOR AND CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH A PROVISIONAL REGISTRANT MAY  
18 APPLY FOR A HARDSHIP EXTENSION TO EXTEND, TO A DATE NOT LATER  
19 THAN JUNE 30, 2028:

20 (I) THE VALIDITY OF A PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION;

21 (II) THE TIME WITHIN WHICH THE PROVISIONAL REGISTRANT MAY  
22 SATISFY THE EDUCATION AND TESTING REQUIREMENTS; OR

23 (III) THE DATE BY WHICH THE PROVISIONAL REGISTRANT MUST  
24 APPLY TO THE CREDENTIALING ORGANIZATION.

25 (f) THIS SUBSECTION (4) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1,  
26 2028.

27 (5) THE BOARD SHALL MAKE AVAILABLE ON ITS WEBSITE THE



1 REQUIREMENTS FOR CREDENTIALING BY THE CREDENTIALING  
2 ORGANIZATION, AS WELL AS INFORMATION CONCERNING THE VETERINARY  
3 TECHNICIAN REGISTRATION BY ENDORSEMENT UNDER SECTION 12-315-205  
4 AND THE OCCUPATIONAL CREDENTIAL PORTABILITY PROGRAM.

5 **12-315-204. Use of title restricted.** ON AND AFTER JANUARY 1,  
6 2024, ONLY A PERSON WHO IS REGISTERED PURSUANT TO THIS PART 2 MAY  
7 USE THE TITLE "VETERINARY TECHNICIAN" OR "REGISTERED VETERINARY  
8 TECHNICIAN" OR THE INITIALS "VT" OR "RVT".

9 **12-315-205. Veterinary technicians - registration by**  
10 **endorsement.** THE BOARD MAY ISSUE A REGISTRATION BY ENDORSEMENT  
11 TO A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN APPLICANT WHO SATISFIES THE  
12 REQUIREMENTS OF THE OCCUPATIONAL CREDENTIAL PORTABILITY  
13 PROGRAM.

14 **12-315-206. Expiration, renewal, reinstatement, or**  
15 **reactivation of a registration - inactive status - rules - definition.**

16 (1) A REGISTRATION ISSUED PURSUANT TO THIS PART 2 IS SUBJECT TO THE  
17 RENEWAL, EXPIRATION, REINSTATEMENT, AND DELINQUENCY FEE  
18 PROVISIONS SPECIFIED IN SECTION 12-20-202 (1) AND (2). A PERSON  
19 WHOSE REGISTRATION EXPIRES IS SUBJECT TO THE PENALTIES PROVIDED  
20 IN THIS PART 2 OR SECTION 12-20-202 (1).

21 (2) THE BOARD, BY RULE, MAY WAIVE A VETERINARY  
22 TECHNICIAN'S RENEWAL FEE WHILE THE VETERINARY TECHNICIAN IS ON  
23 ACTIVE DUTY WITH ANY BRANCH OF THE ARMED SERVICES OF THE UNITED  
24 STATES. THE PERIOD DURING WHICH THE RENEWAL FEE IS WAIVED CANNOT  
25 EXCEED THE LONGER OF THREE YEARS OR THE DURATION OF A NATIONAL  
26 EMERGENCY.

27 (3) THE BOARD SHALL NOT RENEW, REINSTATE, OR REACTIVATE A

1 REGISTRATION ISSUED PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-203 (3) UNLESS THE  
2 VETERINARY TECHNICIAN DEMONSTRATES TO THE BOARD'S SATISFACTION  
3 THAT THE VETERINARY TECHNICIAN MAINTAINS ACTIVE CREDENTIALING  
4 WITH THE CREDENTIALING ORGANIZATION. SUBJECT TO BOARD RULE, THE  
5 EVIDENCE MAY BE PROVIDED BY AN ATTESTATION ON THE REGISTRATION  
6 APPLICATION.

7 (4) (a) UPON NOTICE TO THE BOARD, THE BOARD SHALL TRANSFER  
8 A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN'S REGISTRATION TO INACTIVE STATUS. IF A  
9 PERSON WHOSE REGISTRATION IS IN INACTIVE STATUS WISHES TO RESUME  
10 PRACTICING AS A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN, THE PERSON SHALL APPLY TO  
11 THE BOARD IN A FORM AND MANNER APPROVED BY THE BOARD AND SHALL  
12 DEMONSTRATE, TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE BOARD, THAT THE PERSON  
13 HAS OBTAINED AND MAINTAINS CREDENTIALING IN GOOD STANDING BY  
14 THE CREDENTIALING ORGANIZATION.

15 (b) THE BOARD MAY PURSUE DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS  
16 PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-207 AGAINST A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN  
17 WHOSE REGISTRATION IS INACTIVE PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (4) FOR  
18 CONDUCT THAT VIOLATES THIS PART 2 THAT THE PERSON ENGAGES IN  
19 WHILE THE REGISTRATION IS IN INACTIVE STATUS.

20 **12-315-207. Discipline of a registered veterinary technician -**  
21 **repeal.** (1) UPON RECEIPT OF A SIGNED COMPLAINT BY A COMPLAINANT  
22 OR UPON ITS OWN MOTION, THE BOARD MAY PROCEED TO A HEARING IN  
23 ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 12-315-113. AFTER A HEARING, AND BY A  
24 CONCURRENCE OF A MAJORITY OF MEMBERS, THE BOARD MAY TAKE  
25 DISCIPLINARY ACTION AS AUTHORIZED IN SECTION 12-20-404 AGAINST AN  
26 APPLICANT FOR A REGISTRATION OR A REGISTERED VETERINARY  
27 TECHNICIAN FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

1 (a) VIOLATION OF ANY PROVISION OF THIS ARTICLE 315, AN  
2 APPLICABLE PROVISION OF ARTICLE 20 OR 30 OF THIS TITLE 12, OR ANY  
3 RULE OR ORDER OF THE BOARD;

4 (b) (I) FRAUD, MISREPRESENTATION, OR DECEPTION IN  
5 ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN OR IN OBTAINING A REGISTRATION OR RENEWING  
6 A REGISTRATION;

7 (II) (A) FRAUD, MISREPRESENTATION, OR DECEPTION IN  
8 ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN OR IN OBTAINING A PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION  
9 OR RENEWING A PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION;

10 (B) THIS SUBSECTION (1)(b)(II) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE OCTOBER  
11 1, 2028.

12 (c) CONVICTION OF A CHARGE OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS;

13 (d) WILLFULLY MAKING ANY FALSE STATEMENT AS TO ANY  
14 MATERIAL MATTER IN ANY OATH OR AFFIDAVIT THAT IS REQUIRED BY THIS  
15 ARTICLE 315;

16 (e) UNPROFESSIONAL OR UNETHICAL CONDUCT OR ENGAGING IN  
17 PRACTICES THAT ARE IN VIOLATION OF GENERALLY ACCEPTED STANDARDS  
18 FOR PRACTICE AS A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN OR PRESCRIBED BY THE  
19 RULES OF THE BOARD;

20 (f) THE VETERINARY TECHNICIAN:

21 (I) HAS A REGISTRATION OR CREDENTIAL AS A VETERINARY  
22 TECHNICIAN IN ANOTHER STATE REVOKED OR SUSPENDED;

23 (II) IS OTHERWISE DISCIPLINED BY ANOTHER STATE; OR

24 (III) HAS COMMITTED ACTS IN ANOTHER STATE THAT WOULD  
25 SUBJECT THE PERSON TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION IN THIS STATE;

26 (g) PRACTICING AS A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN WHILE IN INACTIVE  
27 STATUS OR WHILE THE PERSON'S REGISTRATION IS EXPIRED;

1 (h) FAILING TO NOTIFY THE BOARD WITHIN THIRTY DAYS AFTER A  
2 DISCIPLINARY ACTION, WHETHER IN THIS STATE OR IN ANOTHER STATE,  
3 AGAINST THE PERSON'S CREDENTIAL THAT ALLOWS THE PERSON TO HOLD  
4 A REGISTRATION IN THIS STATE;

5 (i) CONVICTION OF A VIOLATION OF THE "UNIFORM CONTROLLED  
6 SUBSTANCES ACT OF 2013", ARTICLE 18 OF TITLE 18; THE FEDERAL  
7 "CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT", 21 U.S.C. SEC. 801 ET SEQ., AS  
8 AMENDED; OR THE FEDERAL "CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES IMPORT AND  
9 EXPORT ACT", 21 U.S.C. SEC. 951 ET SEQ., AS AMENDED;

10 (j) CONVICTION OF A CRIME IN THE COURTS OF THIS STATE OR OF  
11 A CRIME IN ANY OTHER STATE, ANY TERRITORY, OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY  
12 FOR AN OFFENSE RELATED TO THE CONDUCT REGULATED BY THIS PART 2,  
13 REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE SENTENCE IS DEFERRED. AS USED IN THIS  
14 SUBSECTION (1)(j), "CONVICTION" INCLUDES A PLEA OF GUILTY OR A PLEA  
15 OF NOLO CONTENDERE ACCEPTED BY THE COURT.

16 (k) HABITUAL OR EXCESSIVE USE OR ABUSE OF ALCOHOL  
17 BEVERAGES, A HABIT-FORMING DRUG, OR A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE AS  
18 DEFINED IN SECTION 18-18-102 (5);

19 (l) A DETERMINATION THAT THE INDIVIDUAL IS MENTALLY  
20 INCOMPETENT BY A COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION, AND THE COURT  
21 HAS ENTERED, PURSUANT TO PART 3 OR 4 OF ARTICLE 14 OF TITLE 15 OR  
22 SECTION 27-65-109 (4) OR 27-65-127, AN ORDER SPECIFICALLY FINDING  
23 THAT THE MENTAL INCOMPETENCY IS OF SUCH A DEGREE THAT THE  
24 INDIVIDUAL IS INCAPABLE OF CONTINUING TO HOLD A REGISTRATION AS A  
25 VETERINARY TECHNICIAN;

26 (m) FAILING TO REPORT A KNOWN VIOLATION OF ANY PROVISION  
27 OF THIS SECTION;

1 (n) PRACTICING OR PERFORMING SERVICES BEYOND A  
2 REGISTRANT'S SCOPE OF COMPETENCE;

3 (o) FAILING TO RESPOND TO A COMPLAINT AGAINST THE  
4 REGISTRANT;

5 (p) FAILING TO PROVIDE TO THE BOARD AN UPDATED MAILING  
6 ADDRESS AND OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION AS REQUIRED BY THE BOARD  
7 WITHIN THIRTY DAYS AFTER A CHANGE IN THE INFORMATION; OR

8 (q) FAILING TO COMPLY WITH THE TERMS AGREED TO UNDER A  
9 CONFIDENTIAL AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO UNDER SECTIONS 12-30-108  
10 AND 12-315-125.

11 (2) THE BOARD MAY SEND A LETTER OF ADMONITION TO A  
12 REGISTRANT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES SPECIFIED IN AND IN  
13 ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 12-20-404 (4).

14 (3) THE BOARD MAY SEND A CONFIDENTIAL LETTER OF CONCERN  
15 TO THE REGISTRANT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES SPECIFIED IN SECTION  
16 12-20-404 (5).

17 (4) THE RECORD OF CONVICTION OF A FELONY IN A COURT OF  
18 COMPETENT JURISDICTION IS SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE FOR THE BOARD TO  
19 TAKE DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST THE REGISTRANT AS DEEMED PROPER  
20 BY THE BOARD. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS PART 2, A CONVICTION IS  
21 DEEMED TO BE A CONVICTION THAT HAS BEEN UPHeld BY THE HIGHEST  
22 APPELLATE COURT HAVING JURISDICTION OR A CONVICTION UPON WHICH  
23 THE TIME FOR FILING AN APPEAL HAS PASSED.

24 (5) WITH RESPECT TO DENYING THE ISSUANCE OF A VETERINARY  
25 TECHNICIAN REGISTRATION OR TAKING DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST A  
26 VETERINARY TECHNICIAN, THE BOARD MAY ACCEPT AS PRIMA FACIE  
27 EVIDENCE OF GROUNDS FOR THE ACTION ANY FEDERAL OR STATE ACTION

1 TAKEN AGAINST A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN IN ANOTHER JURISDICTION IF  
2 THE VIOLATION THAT PROMPTED THE DISCIPLINARY ACTION IN THE  
3 JURISDICTION WOULD CONSTITUTE GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION  
4 UNDER THIS SECTION.

5 (6) IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER PENALTY THAT MAY BE IMPOSED  
6 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, A PERSON VIOLATING ANY PROVISION OF THIS  
7 PART 2 OR ANY RULES PROMULGATED PURSUANT TO THIS PART 2 MAY BE  
8 FINED NOT LESS THAN ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS NOR MORE THAN ONE  
9 THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR ANY SUCH VIOLATION.

10 (7) THE BOARD MAY ISSUE CEASE-AND-DESIST ORDERS UNDER THE  
11 CIRCUMSTANCES AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 12-20-405; EXCEPT  
12 THAT THE BOARD MAY ALSO ISSUE A CEASE-AND-DESIST ORDER ON ITS  
13 OWN MOTION.

14 (8) THE BOARD MAY SUSPEND THE REGISTRATION OF A  
15 VETERINARY TECHNICIAN WHO FAILS TO COMPLY WITH AN ORDER OF THE  
16 BOARD ISSUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION. THE BOARD MAY  
17 IMPOSE THE REGISTRATION SUSPENSION UNTIL THE REGISTRANT COMPLIES  
18 WITH THE BOARD'S ORDER.

19 **12-315-208. Examination of registrants - behavioral health -**  
20 **mental health - physical conditions.** (1) (a) (I) IF, UPON RECEIPT OF A  
21 SIGNED COMPLAINT BY A COMPLAINANT, THE BOARD HAS REASONABLE  
22 CAUSE TO BELIEVE THAT A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN IS UNABLE TO  
23 PRACTICE AS A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN WITH REASONABLE SKILL AND  
24 SAFETY TO PATIENTS OR CLIENTS DUE TO A PHYSICAL CONDITION OR A  
25 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH, OR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER,  
26 THE BOARD MAY REQUIRE IN WRITING THAT THE VETERINARY TECHNICIAN  
27 SUBMIT TO AN EXAMINATION TO EVALUATE:

1 (A) THE EXISTENCE AND EXTENT OF THE PHYSICAL CONDITION OR  
2 THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH, OR SUBSTANCE USE  
3 DISORDER; AND

4 (B) ANY IMPACT THE PHYSICAL CONDITION OR THE BEHAVIORAL  
5 HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH, OR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER HAS ON THE  
6 VETERINARY TECHNICIAN'S ABILITY TO PRACTICE AS A VETERINARY  
7 TECHNICIAN WITH REASONABLE SKILL AND SAFETY TO PATIENTS AND  
8 CLIENTS.

9 (II) A QUALIFIED PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYED BY OR CONTRACTING  
10 WITH A VETERINARY PEER HEALTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM THAT THE  
11 BOARD HAS SELECTED AS A DESIGNATED PROVIDER UNDER SECTION  
12 12-315-123 SHALL CONDUCT AN EXAMINATION REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION  
13 (1)(a)(I) OF THIS SECTION.

14 (b) IF A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN FAILS TO SUBMIT TO AN  
15 EXAMINATION REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS SECTION, THE  
16 BOARD MAY SUSPEND THE VETERINARY TECHNICIAN'S REGISTRATION  
17 UNTIL THE VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SUBMITS TO THE EXAMINATION;  
18 HOWEVER, IF THE VETERINARY TECHNICIAN DEMONSTRATES TO THE  
19 SATISFACTION OF THE BOARD THAT THE FAILURE TO SUBMIT TO THE  
20 EXAMINATION IS DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND THE VETERINARY  
21 TECHNICIAN'S CONTROL, THE BOARD SHALL NOT SUSPEND THE  
22 VETERINARY TECHNICIAN'S REGISTRATION.

23 (2) EVERY VETERINARY TECHNICIAN IN THIS STATE IS DEEMED, BY  
24 PRACTICING AS A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN OR APPLYING FOR A RENEWAL  
25 OF THE PERSON'S REGISTRATION, TO HAVE:

26 (a) GIVEN CONSENT TO SUBMIT TO AN EXAMINATION THAT THE  
27 BOARD MAY REQUIRE UNDER SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS SECTION; AND

1 (b) WAIVED AN OBJECTION TO THE ADMISSIBILITY OF THE  
2 EXAMINING PROFESSIONAL'S TESTIMONY OR EXAMINATION REPORTS AT A  
3 BOARD HEARING ON GROUNDS THAT THE TESTIMONY OR REPORTS ARE  
4 PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATIONS.

5 (3) (a) A PERSON SHALL NOT USE THE RESULTS OF AN  
6 EXAMINATION ORDERED UNDER SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS SECTION AS  
7 EVIDENCE IN ANY PROCEEDING OTHER THAN A PROCEEDING BEFORE THE  
8 BOARD.

9 (b) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION,  
10 ANY EXAMINATION RESULTS, THE FACT THAT THE EXAMINATION WAS  
11 ADMINISTERED, AND THE COMPLAINT THAT PROMPTED THE EXAMINATION  
12 SHALL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL, ARE NOT PUBLIC RECORDS, AND ARE NOT  
13 AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

14 **12-315-209. Duties of licensed veterinarian - direction and**  
15 **supervision of veterinary technician - rules.** (1) A VETERINARY  
16 TECHNICIAN IS AUTHORIZED TO PROVIDE CARE TO ANIMALS UNDER THE  
17 DIRECTION AND SUPERVISION, AS DEFINED BY THE BOARD BY RULE, OF A  
18 LICENSED VETERINARIAN WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VETERINARY  
19 TECHNICIAN'S PERFORMANCE. THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN DIRECTING  
20 AND SUPERVISING THE VETERINARY TECHNICIAN IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE  
21 CARE OF THE ANIMAL.

22 (2) NOTHING IN THIS PART 2 PROHIBITS A PERSON WHO IS NOT A  
23 VETERINARY TECHNICIAN PURSUANT TO THIS PART 2 FROM PERFORMING  
24 TASKS RELATING TO ANIMAL CARE UNDER THE DIRECTION AND  
25 SUPERVISION OF A LICENSED VETERINARIAN WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE  
26 CARE OF THE ANIMAL.

27 **12-315-210. Unauthorized practice - penalties.** A PERSON WHO



1 PRACTICES OR OFFERS OR ATTEMPTS TO PRACTICE AS A VETERINARY  
2 TECHNICIAN WITHOUT AN ACTIVE REGISTRATION ISSUED UNDER THIS PART  
3 2 IS SUBJECT TO PENALTIES PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-20-407 (1)(a).

4 **SECTION 22.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-280-112, **amend**  
5 (1)(q) as follows:

6 **12-280-112. Fees.** (1) The director shall determine, and the board  
7 shall collect, fees pursuant to section 12-20-105 for the following  
8 licenses, certifications, and registrations:

9 (q) For the initial and renewal registration of humane societies,  
10 **and animal control agencies, AND ANIMAL SHELTERS** pursuant to section  
11 12-280-119 (12);

12 **SECTION 23.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-280-119, **add**  
13 (12)(b.5) as follows:

14 **12-280-119. Registration of facilities - rules.** (12) (b.5) THE  
15 BOARD MAY ISSUE A LIMITED LICENSE TO A HUMANE SOCIETY, ANIMAL  
16 CONTROL AGENCY, OR ANIMAL SHELTER TO PERFORM THE ACTIVITIES  
17 DESCRIBED IN SECTION 12-280-120 (17)(c).

18 **SECTION 24.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-280-120, **add**  
19 (17)(c) as follows:

20 **12-280-120. Compounding - dispensing - sale of drugs and**  
21 **devices - rules - definition.** (17) (c) A HUMANE SOCIETY, ANIMAL  
22 CONTROL AGENCY, OR ANIMAL SHELTER THAT IS REGISTERED WITH THE  
23 BOARD PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-280-119 (12) IS AUTHORIZED TO  
24 PURCHASE AND POSSESS VACCINES AND ADMINISTER VACCINES IN  
25 ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAWS.

26 **SECTION 25.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-4-607, **amend**  
27 (1)(a) as follows:

1           **25-4-607. Order of board of health requiring inoculation of**  
2 **animals - veterinarian waiver of order.** (1) (a) When it is deemed  
3 advisable in the interest of public health and safety, the board of health of  
4 an organized health department or a county board of health may order that  
5 all dogs, cats, other pet animals, or other mammals in the county or  
6 district be vaccinated against rabies, such vaccination to be performed by  
7 a licensed veterinarian OR UNDER THE INDIRECT SUPERVISION, AS DEFINED  
8 IN SECTION 12-315-104 (10.5), OF A LICENSED VETERINARIAN. THE  
9 VETERINARIAN SIGNING A RABIES VACCINATION CERTIFICATE SHALL  
10 ENSURE THAT THE PERSON WHO ADMINISTERED THE VACCINE IS IDENTIFIED  
11 ON THE CERTIFICATE AND HAS BEEN APPROPRIATELY TRAINED IN VACCINE  
12 STORAGE, HANDLING, AND ADMINISTRATION AND IN THE MANAGEMENT OF  
13 ADVERSE EVENTS.

14           **SECTION 26. Appropriation.** (1) For the 2022-23 state fiscal  
15 year, \$80,708 is appropriated to the department of regulatory agencies for  
16 use by the division of professions and occupations. This appropriation is  
17 from the division of professions and occupations cash fund created in  
18 section 12-20-105 (3), C.R.S. To implement this act, the division may use  
19 this appropriation as follows:

- 20           (a) \$66,088 for personal services, which amount is based on an  
21 assumption that the division will require an additional 1.2 FTE; and
- 22           (b) \$14,620 for operating expenses.

23           **SECTION 27. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
24 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
25 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except  
26 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V  
27 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this

1 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take  
2 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
3 November 2022 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
4 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.