

CHAPTER 36

PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS

HOUSE BILL 24-1047

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) McCormick and Catlin, McLachlan, Amabile, Bacon, Bird, Boesenecker, Brown, Clifford, Froelich, Garcia, Hamrick, Jodeh, Kipp, Lieder, Lindsay, Lindstedt, Lukens, Marshall, Martinez, Mauro, Ortiz, Ricks, Rutinel, Snyder, Story, Titone, Winter T., Woodrow, Young, McCluskie;
also SENATOR(S) Roberts and Simpson, Bridges, Pelton B., Pelton R., Danielson, Fields, Ginal, Hansen, Kirkmeyer, Liston, Marchman, Michaelson Jenet, Priola, Will.

AN ACT

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

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

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

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

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

(c) Many veterinary practices in Colorado employ veterinary technicians or veterinary technician specialists, who are staff that are educated and trained to perform various veterinary services and are often underutilized by supervising veterinarians;

(d) Clear guidelines are needed for veterinarians regarding the veterinary services that may be delegated to veterinary technicians and veterinary technician specialists to efficiently and effectively utilize the education, training, and expertise of all

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

veterinary staff and ensure that Colorado's animals have adequate access to veterinary care; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(a) ~~treatment or collection of diagnostic information of a patient at veterinary premises without being on the premises but being~~ PROVIDES EITHER WRITTEN OR VERBAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE TASKS THAT HAVE BEEN DELEGATED TO AN INDIVIDUAL; AND

(b) Is readily available for communication.

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

(16.3) "SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN" MEANS A LICENSED VETERINARIAN IN THE STATE WHO DELEGATES AND ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE VETERINARY CARE PROVIDED TO A PATIENT BY AN INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYED AT THE SAME PHYSICAL PRACTICE LOCATION AND WORKING OUT OF THE SAME PHYSICAL PREMISES AS THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN AND WORKING UNDER AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF SUPERVISION BY THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN.

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

(b) "SUPERVISION" INCLUDES:

(I) DIRECT SUPERVISION;

(II) IMMEDIATE SUPERVISION; AND

(III) INDIRECT SUPERVISION.

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

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

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

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

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

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

12-315-105. License requirements and exceptions - definitions - rules. (1) ~~A person~~ AN INDIVIDUAL shall not practice veterinary medicine in this state if the ~~person~~ INDIVIDUAL is not a licensed veterinarian. ~~A person~~ AN INDIVIDUAL shall not practice artificial insemination or ova transplantation of cattle or other animal species in this state except in accordance with RULES ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO section 12-315-106 (5)(c). AN INDIVIDUAL NOT LICENSED AS A VETERINARIAN PURSUANT TO THIS PART 1 SHALL NOT DIAGNOSE, ISSUE PROGNOSSES FOR, PRESCRIBE FOR, OR PERFORM SURGERY ON AN ANIMAL. This article 315 does not prohibit:

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

(r) AN INDIVIDUAL ACTING UNDER AT LEAST INDIRECT SUPERVISION OF A

LICENSED VETERINARIAN FROM PROVIDING CARE TO ANIMALS LOCATED AT AN ANIMAL SHELTER THAT ARE THE PROPERTY OR UNDER THE STEWARDSHIP OF AN ANIMAL SHELTER IF:

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

(II) THE SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN HAS DETERMINED THE INDIVIDUAL HAS RECEIVED SUFFICIENT AND PROPER TRAINING;

(s) AN INDIVIDUAL FROM PERFORMING ACCEPTED ANIMAL HUSBANDRY ON LIVESTOCK, AS THOSE TERMS ARE DEFINED IN SECTION 35-42-103, IF THE INDIVIDUAL IS AN OWNER OF AN ANIMAL OR IS AN INDIVIDUAL ACTING UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE OWNER OF THE ANIMAL PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1)(f)(I) OF THIS SECTION; OR

(t) AN INDIVIDUAL FROM PERFORMING TASKS ON LIVESTOCK UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A LICENSED VETERINARIAN AND:

(I) THE SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN HAS ESTABLISHED A VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LIVESTOCK AND THE OWNER OF THE LIVESTOCK;

(II) THE INDIVIDUAL IS PERFORMING TASKS IN COMPLIANCE WITH WRITTEN OR VERBAL INSTRUCTIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS DEVELOPED BY THE SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN; AND

(III) THE SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN HAS DETERMINED THE INDIVIDUAL PERFORMING THE TASKS HAS RECEIVED SUFFICIENT AND PROPER TRAINING.

(2) (a) Notwithstanding subsection (1)(f) of this section, ~~and except as permitted by subsection (1)(j) of this section~~, a person who is not a licensed veterinarian shall not administer, distribute, dispense, or prescribe prescription drugs. Except as provided in subsection (2)(b) of this section, a licensed veterinarian must have a veterinarian-client-patient relationship with the animal and its owner or other caretaker in order to administer, distribute, dispense, or prescribe prescription drugs to or for an animal. A LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY DELEGATE THE ADMINISTRATION OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS OR THE FILLING OF A PRESCRIPTION ORDER TO AN INDIVIDUAL UNDER AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF SUPERVISION DETERMINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS ARTICLE 315 AND BOARD RULES ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-105.5 (4).

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

12-315-105.5. Delegation to and supervision of veterinary technicians, veterinary technician specialists, and other qualified personnel - rules. (1) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY DELEGATE TASKS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION AND RULES ADOPTED BY THE BOARD PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

(2) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN SHALL ESTABLISH A VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP BEFORE THE VETERINARIAN

DELEGATES A TASK TO A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN, A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST, OR OTHER QUALIFIED PERSONNEL.

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

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

(II) THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF SUPERVISION FOR THE DELEGATED TASK PURSUANT TO SUBSECTIONS (4), (6), AND (7) OF THIS SECTION AND, IF RULES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD, ANY APPLICABLE RULES ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION; AND

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

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

(II) IF A LICENSED VETERINARIAN DELEGATES A TASK TO A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN, VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST, OR OTHER QUALIFIED PERSONNEL AND THAT TASK IS NOT COVERED BY RULES ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION OR AN APPLICABLE BOARD RULE, THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY DELEGATE THE TASK AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF SUPERVISION, AS DETERMINED BY THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS PART 1.

(4) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2025, THE BOARD SHALL ADOPT RULES REGARDING THE FOLLOWING TASKS THAT A LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY DELEGATE TO A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN OR A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST AND THE STATED LEVEL OF SUPERVISION TO PERFORM THOSE TASKS:

(a) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY DELEGATE THE FOLLOWING TASKS TO A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST WHO IS UNDER THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN'S IMMEDIATE SUPERVISION:

(I) ASSISTING IN SURGICAL PROCEDURES; AND

(II) THE PLACEMENT OF ABDOMINAL, THORACIC, ESOPHAGOSTOMY, OR PERCUTANEOUS ENDOSCOPIC GASTROSTOMY TUBES.

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

(I) DENTAL PROCEDURES, INCLUDING, AT A MINIMUM:

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

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

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

(D) SUTURING A GINGIVAL INCISION;

(II) PLACEMENT OF EPIDURAL AND INTRAOSSEOUS CATHETERS;

(III) SUTURING, STAPLING, OR GLUING AN EXISTING SURGICAL SKIN INCISION; AND

(IV) TREATMENT OF MINOR MEDICAL CONDITIONS, AS DETERMINED BY THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN, IF:

(A) THE VETERINARY TECHNICIAN OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST HAS THE TRAINING AND COMPETENCY TO PERFORM THE TREATMENT;

(B) THE TREATMENT IS PERFORMED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN OR UNDER PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED WRITTEN PROTOCOLS; AND

(C) THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN IS AVAILABLE TO MANAGE THE CASE IF IT IS DETERMINED THAT THE CONDITION OF THE PATIENT REQUIRES CARE BEYOND THE ABILITIES OF THE VETERINARY TECHNICIAN OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST.

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

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

(A) PRESCRIPTION DRUGS;

(B) MEDICATIONS;

(C) CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES;

(D) ENEMAS; AND

(E) BIOLOGICAL IMMUNOLOGICAL AGENTS;

(II) INTRAVENOUS AND INTRA-ARTERIAL CATHETERIZATIONS AND MAINTENANCE;

(III) IMAGING, INCLUDING RADIOGRAPHY, ULTRASONOGRAPHY, COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY, MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING, AND FLUOROSCOPY AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF RADIOPAQUE AGENTS OR MATERIALS;

(IV) UNLESS PROHIBITED BY STATE OR FEDERAL LAW, THE COLLECTION OF:

(A) BLOOD;

(B) CELLULAR OR MICROBIOLOGICAL SAMPLES THROUGH SKIN SCRAPINGS, IMPRESSIONS, OR OTHER NONSURGICAL METHODS; AND

(C) URINE THROUGH BLADDER EXPRESSION, UNOBSTRUCTED CATHETERIZATION, CYSTOCENTESIS, OR INSERTION OF AN INDWELLING URINARY CATHETER;

(V) MONITORING OF:

(A) AN ELECTROCARDIOGRAM, OR "EKG";

(B) BLOOD PRESSURE; AND

(C) CARBON DIOXIDE AND BLOOD OXYGEN SATURATION;

(VI) CLINICAL LABORATORY TEST PROCEDURES;

(VII) HANDLING AND DISPOSING OF BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE MATERIALS;

(VIII) IMPLANTATION OF A SUBCUTANEOUS MICROCHIP;

(IX) ADMINISTRATION OF A THERAPEUTIC LASER, EXCEPT FOR THE USE OF SURGICAL LASERS;

(X) APPLICATION OF ANIMAL REHABILITATION THERAPIES;

(XI) OCULAR TONOMETRY, SCHIRMER TEAR TESTS, OR FLUORESCEIN STAIN APPLICATION;

(XII) SUTURE AND STAPLE REMOVAL;

(XIII) APPLICATION OF SPLINTS AND SLINGS FOR THE TEMPORARY IMMOBILIZATION OF FRACTURES;

(XIV) ADMINISTRATION OF CHEMOTHERAPY OR RADIATION THERAPY;

(XV) REPRODUCTIVE ULTRASOUND AND SEMEN EVALUATION;

(XVI) BLOOD OR BLOOD COMPONENT COLLECTION, PREPARATION, AND ADMINISTRATION FOR TRANSFUSION OR BLOOD BANKING PURPOSES;

(XVII) PLACEMENT OF GASTRIC, NASOGASTRIC, OR NASOESOPHAGEAL TUBES;

(XVIII) FLUID ASPIRATION FROM A BODY CAVITY OR ORGAN;

(XIX) MINOR WOUND MANAGEMENT;

(XX) PLACEMENT OF NASAL CATHETERS; AND

(XXI) EMERGENCY PATIENT CARE, SUCH AS:

(A) APPLICATION OF TOURNIQUETS OR PRESSURE PROCEDURES TO CONTROL HEMORRHAGE;

(B) APPLICATION OF APPROPRIATE WOUND DRESSINGS;

(C) RESUSCITATIVE OXYGEN PROCEDURES;

(D) ANTI-SEIZURE TREATMENT;

(E) SUPPORTIVE TREATMENT IN HEAT PROSTRATION CASES;

(F) ADMINISTRATION OF A DRUG, CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE, OR PARENTERAL FLUIDS TO MANAGE AND CONTROL PAIN, PREVENT FURTHER INJURY, PREVENT OR CONTROL SHOCK, OR PREVENT THE SUFFERING OF AN ANIMAL, UP TO AND INCLUDING EUTHANASIA; AND

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

(5) (a) IN PROMULGATING RULES PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION RELATED TO THE DELEGATION OF TASKS AND SUPERVISION OF VETERINARY PROFESSIONALS OR OTHER PERSONNEL, THE BOARD SHALL:

(I) CONSULT WITH LICENSED VETERINARIANS, REGISTERED VETERINARY TECHNICIANS, VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALISTS, CLIENTS, AND OTHER RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS, AS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD; AND

(II) PERMIT A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST TO PERFORM ANY TASK UNDER AT LEAST INDIRECT SUPERVISION BY A LICENSED VETERINARIAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS SECTION.

(b) THE BOARD SHALL REVIEW AND UPDATE THE RULES PROMULGATED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION AS NECESSARY TO ACCOUNT FOR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AND VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY.

(6) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY DELEGATE ANY TASK TO A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST WHO IS UNDER AT LEAST INDIRECT SUPERVISION BY THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN IF THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN DETERMINES THE TASK IS WITHIN THE VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST'S TRAINING, EXPERIENCE, AND COMPETENCY AND IS OTHERWISE NOT IN CONFLICT WITH THIS ARTICLE 315, AN APPLICABLE BOARD RULE, OR ANY OTHER STATE OR FEDERAL LAW.

(7) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF THIS ARTICLE 315, AN APPLICABLE BOARD RULE, OR ANY OTHER STATE OR FEDERAL LAW, A LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY DELEGATE A TASK TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS NOT A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST IF THE VETERINARIAN DETERMINES THAT THE TASK IS WITHIN THE INDIVIDUAL'S TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE AND THE INDIVIDUAL IS UNDER THE VETERINARIAN'S DIRECT OR IMMEDIATE SUPERVISION;

EXCEPT THAT THE TREATMENT OF MINOR MEDICAL CONDITIONS MAY ONLY BE DELEGATED TO A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (4)(b)(IV) OF THIS SECTION.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(ee) Failure to properly supervise a veterinary student, a veterinary student preceptor, a veterinary technician, ~~or~~ A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST, other

veterinary staff, OR OTHER INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE PERFORMING TASKS UNDER A LICENSED VETERINARIAN'S SUPERVISION;

SECTION 8. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-201, **amend** (1) introductory portion and (2); and **add** (1)(c), (1)(d), and (1.5) as follows:

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

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

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

(1.5) THE BOARD SHALL NOT:

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

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

(2) If the board does not approve a credentialing organization for purposes of credentialing veterinary technicians OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALISTS in this state pursuant to subsection (1)(a) OR (1)(c) of this section because there is no credentialing organization that meets the requirements set forth in subsections (1)(a)(I) to (1)(a)(IV) OR SUBSECTION (1)(c) of this section or for any other reason, the board shall establish by rule and administer a credentialing process for veterinary technician registration OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST DESIGNATION pursuant to this part 2.

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

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

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

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

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

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

12-315-204. Use of title restricted. (1) On and after January 1, 2024, only a ~~person~~ AN INDIVIDUAL who is registered pursuant to ~~this part 2~~ SECTION 12-315-203 may use the title "veterinary technician" or "registered veterinary technician" or the initials "VT" or "RVT".

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

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

12-315-206. Expiration, renewal, reinstatement, or reactivation of a registration - inactive status - rules - definition. (3) (a) The board shall not renew, reinstate, or reactivate a registration issued pursuant to section 12-315-203 (3) unless the veterinary technician demonstrates to the board's satisfaction that the veterinary technician maintains active credentialing with the credentialing organization. Subject to board rule, the evidence may be provided by an attestation on the registration application.

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

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

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

(e) Unprofessional or unethical conduct or engaging in practices that are in

violation of generally accepted standards for practice as a veterinary technician OR AS A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST or prescribed by the rules of the board;

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

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

12-315-209. Duties of licensed veterinarian - supervision of veterinary technicians and veterinary technician specialists - rules. (1) A veterinary technician OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST is authorized to provide care to animals under the ~~direction and~~ APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF supervision, as ~~defined~~ DETERMINED by the board by rule of PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-105.5(4) OR (6), BY a licensed veterinarian who is responsible for the veterinary technician's OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST'S performance. The licensed veterinarian ~~directing~~ DELEGATING TASKS TO and supervising the veterinary technician OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST is responsible for the care of the animal.

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

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

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

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

Approved: March 22, 2024