

State Legislative Update

April 2022

This issue of the State Legislative Update includes select summaries of bills and regulations tracked by the AVMA and introduced in April. For more information, please contact [Cody Corcelius](#), policy analyst.

Enacted

With the conclusion of April, a majority of states (26) are no longer in session and a multitude of bills have been enacted. Of particular note:

- **Kansas's** [KS HB 2605](#) expands and clarifies the requirements for the Veterinary Training Program for Rural Kansas at Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine and creates an advisory committee to oversee the program.
- In **Maine**, legislation ([ME LD 482 \(S.P. 186\)](#)) establishes the framework and mechanics for pet insurance.
- Despite opposition by the AVMA and the **Maryland Veterinary Medical Association**, the **Maryland** legislature passed a bill ([MD HB 22](#)) that bans the declawing of cats unless for therapeutic use. Maryland is the second state to enact a declaw ban. The state of New York banned declawing of cats in 2019.
- **Nebraska's** [NE LB 848](#) authorizes, when funds are available, the development and execution of county or other local emergency management organizations' catastrophic livestock mortality disposal plans for a response to a disease, natural disaster, or other emergency event resulting in catastrophic livestock mortality.
- **Virginia's** [VA HB 551](#) exempts veterinarians from sales and use tax on the purchase of prescription medicines and drugs that are administered or dispensed to patients within a veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR). Championed by the **Virginia Veterinary Medical Association**, this legislation repeals provisions of current law that provide that a veterinarian dispensing or selling medicines or drugs on prescription shall be deemed to be the user or consumer of all such medicines and drugs.
- A new law in **Virginia** ([VA HB 1330](#)) requires veterinarians to scan unidentified companion animals for embedded microchips in an attempt to identify the lawful owners.

Introduced

- Opposed by the **Delaware Veterinary Medical Association** and the AVMA, **Delaware's** [DE SB 258](#) would provide for damages of up to \$15,000 in veterinary bills for injuries to a pet, the fair market value of a deceased pet, and up to \$15,000 for emotional trauma suffered by the pet's owner (noneconomic damages).
- In **Missouri**, [MO HB 3017](#) would appropriate funds for the design and construction of a new veterinary laboratory at the University of Missouri. **Rhode Island's** [RI HR 8155](#) RI HR 8155 would appropriate \$100,000 to fund a veterinarian at the Wildlife Clinic of Rhode Island.

Animal abuse Cruelty			
State	Link	Summary of proposed bill or regulation	Status
Nebraska	NE LB 851	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Requires a law enforcement officer who has reason to believe that an animal has been abandoned or is being cruelly neglected or cruelly mistreated to make prompt investigation Defines cruelly mistreats as with no justifiable purpose, to knowingly and intentionally kill, maim, disfigure, torture, beat, kick, hit, strike in any manner, mutilate, burn, scald, or otherwise inflict harm upon any animal 	Enacted 4/20/2022

Animal shelters			
State	Link	Summary of proposed bill or regulation	Status
Louisiana	LA SR 57	Would request local governing authorities and animal shelters to adopt policies and programs to provide alternatives to euthanizing healthy dogs and cats	Proposed 4/14/2022

Appropriations			
State	Link	Summary of proposed bill or regulation	Status
Missouri	MO HB 3017	Would appropriate funds for the design and construction of a new veterinary laboratory at the University of Missouri	Introduced 4/6/2022
Rhode Island	RI HR 8155	Would appropriate \$100,000 to fund a veterinarian at the Wildlife Clinic of Rhode Island	Introduced 4/14/2022

Companion animals			
State	Link	Summary of proposed bill or regulation	Status
Virginia	VA HB 1330	Requires veterinarians, public or private animal shelters, and releasing agencies to seek to identify the lawful owners of the unidentified companion animals that are submitted to them by scanning for embedded microchips	Enacted 4/11/2022

Education			
State	Link	Summary of proposed bill or regulation	Status
Kansas	KS HB 2605	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes an advisory committee that will serve over the Veterinary Training Program of Rural Kansas to help select students, determine the needs of the program, and provide input to the college of veterinary medicine at Kansas State University; Increases the loan amount (from \$20,000) to not more than \$25,000 per year Increases the county population requirement maximum (from 35,000 to 40,000) for counties where program participants must engage in the full-time practice of veterinary medicine Adds the ability for participants to fulfill certain requirements by working in a registered veterinary premises under a licensed veterinarian if food animal patients make up at least 50% of such veterinarian's practice 	Enacted 4/7/2022

Legal			
State	Link	Summary of proposed bill or regulation	Status
Delaware	DE SB 258	Would allow for noneconomic damages for the injury or the death of a pet that is tortiously injured and set caps at \$15,000 for the cost of	Introduced 4/6/2022

		veterinary care, \$15,000 for emotional trauma and pain and suffering, and the fair market value of the pet before death.	
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Livestock

State	Link	Summary of proposed bill or regulation	Status
Nebraska	NE LB 848	Authorizes, when funds are available, the development and execution of county or other local emergency management organizations' catastrophic livestock mortality disposal plans for a response to a disease, natural disaster, or other emergency event resulting in catastrophic livestock mortality	Enacted 4/20/2022
New York	NY S 8847	Would: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish an Office of Antibiotic-Resistance Control in the Department of Health to coordinate, monitor, and intervene to reduce the overuse and misuse of antibiotics in New York State 2. Impose new limits on the use of medically important antibiotics in food-producing animals 	Introduced 4/22/2022

Pet insurance

State	Link	Summary of proposed bill or regulation	Status
Maine	ME LD 482 (S.P. 186)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Defines terms used in pet insurance policies and contracts 2. Requires insurers to make specific disclosures to consumers about the terms and conditions of a pet insurance policy and how claims are paid, and gives policyholders the right to return a policy within 15 days 3. Allows pet insurance policies to include exclusions for preexisting conditions if they are disclosed to consumers 4. Allows pet insurance policies to include a waiting period for illnesses or orthopedic conditions but not accidents; provides that the waiting period may not exceed 30 days; and requires an insurer to waive a waiting period if the covered pet undergoes a medical examination paid for by the policyholder 5. Prohibits insurers and producers from marketing wellness programs as insurance and marketing wellness programs while selling, soliciting or negotiating pet insurance 6. Requires insurance producers to be trained before selling pet insurance 	Enacted 4/7/2022

Research | Research animals

State	Link	Summary of proposed bill or regulation	Status
Virginia	VA HB 523	Requires any person or entity that breeds dogs and cats for animal testing facilities to submit a monthly report to the state veterinarian that includes information regarding the birth, acquisition, death, sale, transfer, or other disposition of a dog or cat in the prior month	Enacted 4/8/2022
Virginia	VA SB 87	Prohibits any state entity, including a public institution of higher education, from procuring dogs or cats for research purposes from a person or entity that has received certain citations pursuant to the federal Animal Welfare Act	Enacted 4/5/2022
Virginia	VA SB 88	Requires entities that breed dogs or cats for sale or transfer to an animal testing facility to keep records of each animal for two years from the date of the sale or transfer, and to annually submit a summary of the records to the state veterinarian	Enacted 4/5/2022
Virginia	VA SB 90	Requires that a breeder of dogs and cats for sale or transfer to an animal testing facility that no longer has a need for a dog or cat in its	Enacted

		possession to offer the animal for adoption prior to euthanizing it – Currently, only animal testing facilities are subject to this requirement.	4/5/2022
Virginia	VA SB 604	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> States that dogs and cats in the possession of a person who, or an entity that, breeds dogs or cats for sale or transfer to an animal research facility are considered companion animals for the purposes of animal cruelty statutes Provides that breeding dogs or cats for sale or transfer to a research facility, or breeding dogs or cats within a research facility, does not constitute bona fide scientific or medical experimentation for purposes of animal cruelty statutes 	Enacted 4/5/2022

Scope of practice

State	Link	Summary of proposed bill or regulation	Status
Arkansas	AR 239.01.22-002	Would permit any chiropractor licensed in the state and certified by the equivalent of the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association, in addition to the AVCA, to perform chiropractic care upon an animal	Proposed 4/22/2022
Maryland	MD HB 22	Prohibits declawing procedures unless performed for a therapeutic purpose	Enacted 4/21/2022

Taxes: Credits | Exemptions | Sale and use

State	Link	Summary of proposed bill or regulation	Status
Virginia	VA HB 551	Creates an exemption for veterinarians regarding sales and use tax on the purchase or prescription of medicines and drugs that are administered to patients within a veterinarian-client-patient relationship by repealing provisions which made a veterinarian dispensing or selling medicines or drugs on prescription the user or consumer of all such medicines and drugs	Enacted 4/11/2022

Veterinarian-client-patient relationship | Telemedicine

State	Link	Summary of proposed bill or regulation	Status
Nevada	NV R074-21	<p>Would codify NV AB 200 (effective October 1, 2021) by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Defining a “physical examination” as “physically proximate and hands-on, subjective and objective evaluation of the health status of an animal by a veterinarian through the use of observation, auscultation, palpation, percussion or manipulation” and “as physically proximate to the group of animals and has subjectively and objectively assessed a representative sample of the animals” for a group of like animals Updating fees for applications and permits from the board Increasing the required number of hours for continuing education over a 24-month period from at least 20 hours to 40 hours Updating veterinary facility permit renewal timelines Updating continuing education requirements for physical therapists and chiropractors performing services on an animal 	Proposed 4/19/2022