

State Legislative Update

February 2023

This issue of the State Legislative Update includes select summaries of bills and regulations tracked by the AVMA Division of State Advocacy and introduced in December. For more information, please contact Madeline Brezin, Policy Analyst, AVMA Division of State Advocacy (mbrezin@avma.org).

Antimicrobials

On June 10, 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) finalized [guidance for industry #263](#) (GFI 263), which outlines the process for animal drug sponsors to voluntarily change the approved marketing status of medically important antimicrobial drugs from over-the-counter (OTC) to prescription (Rx). All OTC antimicrobial drugs will be prescription-only as of June 2023, and some products changed to Rx during 2022. The FDA has developed a [list of medically important antimicrobial drugs](#) whose labels will change from OTC to Rx-only by June 2023. Examples of affected products include injectable penicillin and oxytetracycline. See [AVMA's website](#) for more information. A related resolution in **West Virginia**, [WV H.R. 16](#), would call on Congress—specifically, their U.S. Senators and Representatives—and the federal government to rescind Guidance for Industry GFI #263 and require that the effected animal drugs and medications remain available over the counter.

Legislation in **Illinois** ([IL S.B. 1891/IL H.B. 3567](#)) would have the Department of Agriculture set a target of reducing the use of medically important antibiotics in food processing by 50%. **New York** [NY A.B. 3239](#) would prohibit the use of non-therapeutic antimicrobial agents in any animals raised for food or to create food products.

Cannabis

Legislation in **Rhode Island** ([RI H.B. 5504](#)) would make domestic pets eligible to use medical marijuana if certified by a licensed veterinarian and provide that the cannabis commission adopt rules and regulations concerning the prescribing of medical cannabis for domestic pet use. AVMA resources and more information on the use of cannabis in pets can be found [here](#).

Loan Repayment Programs

Legislation in **California** ([CA A.B. 1237](#)), **Maryland** ([MD H.B.1133](#)), and **New Mexico** ([NM S.B. 404 /NM H.B. 474](#)) would create veterinary medicine loan repayment programs. **Texas** [TX H.B. 2026](#) would make changes to the Rural Veterinarian Incentive Program by removing the requirement for a veterinarian to have graduated from a Texas-based veterinary school to participate.

Non-Compete Agreements

Maine ME L.D. 688 would prohibit non-compete agreements when the employee is a veterinarian without an ownership stake in the practice. Legislation in **New Mexico** (NM H.B. 452) would add veterinarians to the list of other healthcare providers for whom non-compete agreements are prohibited while providing exceptions for shareholders, owners, partners, or directors of a practice.

In January 2023, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) proposed a new rule that would ban employers from imposing non-competes on their workers. The FTC is seeking public comment on the proposed rule, which is based on a preliminary finding that non-competes constitute an unfair method of competition and therefore violate Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act. Supplementing the request for public comments, the FTC hosted a public forum on Thursday, February 16. The comment period closes on March 20, 2023.

Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMP)

The **Alaska State Veterinary Medical Association** is championing a bill (AK S.B. 51/AK H.B. 56) again to exempt veterinarians from participation in the Controlled Substance Prescription Database. Great strides in advocacy were made in last year's legislative session and a similar bill was able to pass in the Senate before stalling in the House Labor and Commerce Committee and not reaching the House for a full vote before the session ended. In **Maryland**, MD H.B. 1227 would require veterinarians to report information to the state's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.

Scope of Practice

Four bills prohibiting the declawing of cats were introduced: **Florida** (FL S.B. 932), **Iowa** (IA S.F. 283), **New Hampshire** (NH H.B. 231), and **Rhode Island** (RI S.B. 403).

California CA A.B. 814 would authorize a veterinarian to refer an animal to a licensed physical therapist holding an advanced certification to provide animal physical rehabilitation under the supervision of the veterinarian. A bill in **New York** (NY A.3586) would exclude the use of equine pulsed electromagnetic field therapy from the practice of veterinary medicine. **Oklahoma's** OK H.B.1044 would permit a chiropractic physician certified by the veterinary board to provide animal chiropractic care and treatment and permit an unlicensed chiropractic physician to provide animal chiropractic diagnosis and treatment if the animal was referred by a licensed veterinarian.

Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship & Telemedicine

Legislation in Florida would expand the use of telemedicine for veterinarians. Championed by the **Florida Veterinary Medical Association (FVMA)**, FL S.B. 554 would allow the use of telemedicine after the formation of a VCPR through an in-person examination, allow the use of telemedicine to maintain the VCPR and expand the ability of consultants to interact with clients via telemedicine. Opposed by the **FVMA**, FL H.B. 1117 would allow a VCPR to be established by telemedicine. The AVMA supports the use of telemedicine in veterinary practice but opposes legislation that would allow the establishment of a VCPR without an in-person examination or medically appropriate

and timely visits to the premises where the animal is kept. The AVMA is also a lead partner in the Coalition for Connected Veterinary Care, an alliance of veterinary and animal health organizations united to empower veterinarians to explore and integrate tools of telehealth into their practices.

Veterinary Practice Act Reviews

Supported by the **Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association**, changes to the state's veterinary practice act proposed in IL S.B. 2059 would require a physical in-person exam once every 12 months to practice telemedicine on the patient and allow a supervising veterinarian to delegate telehealth services to a certified veterinary technician who is acting under direct or indirect supervision. The bill would also require veterinarians to register their email addresses with the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (DFPR) and remove the allowance for DFPR to issue licensure and disciplinary penalties against a licensee or applicant who has been convicted of violating any law governing the practice of veterinary medicine.

The **Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association** worked in conjunction with the Kentucky Board of Veterinary Examiners (KVBE) for over a year to draft legislation intended to update and modernize the Kentucky Veterinary Practice Act. KVMA supports provisions in KY H.B. 167, which clarifies that a physical examination or medically appropriate in-person visit within the previous twelve months is required to establish a VCPR; establishes rules for use of telehealth; adds requirements for facility registrations and voluntary facility inspections; and better defines the roles of veterinary technicians, veterinary assistants, and allied professionals in the delivery of animal health care.

Veterinary Technicians

Opposed by the **Arkansas Veterinary Medical Association** and **AVMA**, **Arkansas** recently enacted a law (AR H.B. 1182) that would allow veterinary technician specialists (VTS) to work under the supervision of a veterinarian with a collaborative agreement covering the relationship. Under this collaborative agreement, a VTS could establish a preliminary VCPR, but the veterinarian is required to personally see the animal within 15 days. The VTS can provide a diagnosis or a prognosis, order diagnostics and establish a treatment plan. They may also perform 'minor' dental and surgical procedures.

Endorsed by the **Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association**, **Minnesota** MN H.F. 1228/MN S.F. 1522 would provide a voluntary pathway for the licensure of veterinary technicians and expand the responsibilities of technicians who are licensed. Supported by the **North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association**, NC S.B. 135 would provide title protection for registered veterinary technicians.

Animal Abuse Cruelty			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Connecticut	<u>CT H.B. 6714</u>	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Require a veterinarian who has reason to suspect an animal has been harmed or neglected to make a report to law enforcement or the local animal control officer no later than 48 hours after gaining said belief; 2. Create immunity from civil liability for the reporting veterinarian; and, 3. Prohibit those convicted of animal cruelty from working or volunteering for any entity that involves care or contact with animals for five years. 	Introduced 2/16/2023
Iowa	<u>IA H.F. 472</u>	<p>Would create immunity for veterinarians from administrative, civil, or criminal liability resulting from their involvement in animal cruelty cases.</p>	Introduced 2/27/2023
Minnesota	<u>MN S.F. 1411</u>	<p>Would establish the Office of Animal Protection within the Department of Public Safety to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote programs to protect the welfare of animals, coordinate with local law enforcement on the prevention of animal cruelty; 2. Provide assistance to shelters during emergencies, establish and maintain a statewide dangerous dog database; and, 3. Investigate allegations related to dangerous dogs. 	Introduced 2/8/2023

Animal Disease Vaccination			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Connecticut	<u>CT S.B. 1069</u>	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Redefine the term “animal” to include domestic animals that humans selectively breed in captivity and that live in close association with humans, livestock, poultry, and pet birds, amphibians, fish, or reptiles offered for sale by a pet shop and that are certified as having been bred in captivity; 2. Require dogs and cats imported into the state to have a certificate of health issued by a licensed, graduate veterinarian accredited by the USDA; 3. Require a licensed veterinarian or the State Veterinarian to clinically diagnose a quarantined animal as rabid before it is euthanized; 4. Require the veterinarian performing the euthanasia of a rabid animal to be responsible for ensuring the remains are delivered to the appropriate laboratory for testing within 48 hours; 5. Require all suspected or confirmed cases of rabies be reported to the State Veterinarian; and, 6. Require the Commissioner of Agriculture to establish a rate of reimbursement every two years for payment to veterinarians who participate in sterilization/vaccination voucher programs. 	Introduced 2/17/2023
Kentucky	<u>KY H.B. 484</u>	<p>Would allow certified animal euthanasia specialists to administer rabies vaccines at their place of employment.</p>	Introduced 2/21/2023
Iowa	<u>IA S.F. 234</u> <u>/ IA H.S.B. 152</u>	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prohibit a person from owning a dog that is at least four months of age and has not been vaccinated against rabies; 2. Authorize a peace officer to kill a dog within their respective jurisdiction if the seizure and impoundment have not been provided for or there is no temporary housing available for the dog; 	Introduced 2/8/2023

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Permit any person to kill a dog that is chasing, maiming, or killing any domestic animal, fowl, or person; and, 4. Prohibit a county or city from adopting or enforcing anything that restricts or hinders the right to own or keep a dog based on the breed, perceived breed, or physical characteristics of a dog. 	
Vermont	VT H.B. 410	Would add a list of requirements for rabies vaccination certificates and require veterinarians to provide a list of rabies vaccinations to the municipal clerk every 30 days.	Introduced 2/27/2023

Animal Advocates | Court

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Connecticut	CT S.B. 1060	Would allow the court to appoint an advocate to represent the interests of justice in proceedings concerning the welfare or custody of animals. Currently, the law just applies to cats and dogs.	Introduced 2/16/2023
Florida	FL S.B. 1006 / FL H.B. 989	Would allow a courtroom advocate to be appointed in the interest of justice in civil and criminal animal welfare cases.	Introduced 2/21/2023
Rhode Island	RI H.B. 5705	Would direct the court to consider the well-being of the pet when determining pet custody between former cohabitating parties.	Introduced 2/17/2023

Animal Shelters

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Connecticut	CT H.B. 5575	<p>Would require the Department of Agriculture to update municipal animal shelter regulation standards to include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An update to the allowable minimum and maximum temperatures in animal shelters to be more aligned with private shelters and neighboring states in an effort to avoid animal suffering from unhealthy temperatures; 2. Providing proper and timely veterinary care of injured or ill animals; 3. Prohibiting different incompatible species from being co-housed, such as small mammals co-housed with cats, and cats co-housed with dogs; and, 4. That all surfaces are able to be properly cleaned and disinfected to eliminate the spread of disease. 	Introduced 2/6/2023
Kansas	KS H.B. 2437	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Require shelters to seek adopters for abandoned dogs, unless found to be irremediably suffering, dangerous or otherwise deemed diseased or disabled beyond recovery by a veterinarian; and, 2. Require the Department of Agriculture's Animal Health Commissioner, in consultation with the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine, to develop animal care guidelines. 	Introduced 2/22/2023
Montana	MT S.B. 504	Would allow shelters to care for and treat their animals and stray animals.	Introduced 2/24/2023

Cannabis | Marijuana

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Rhode Island	RI H.B. 5504	Would make domestic pets eligible to use medical marijuana if certified by a licensed veterinarian and provide that the cannabis commission adopt rules and regulations concerning the prescribing of medical cannabis for domestic pet use.	Introduced 2/10/2023

Companion Animals			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Kansas	<u>KS H.B. 2342</u>	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish the Pet Animal Board of Veterinarians within the Kansas Department of Agriculture; 2. Transfer all Kansas pet animal act powers, duties, and functions to such board; 3. Limit procedures relating to the seizure of animals and eliminate no-contact inspection provisions; and, 4. Require a license for animal rescues. 	Introduced 2/7/2023
Minnesota	<u>MN S.F. 1136 / MN H.F. 1168</u>	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish the Companion Animal Board to promote the welfare of cats, dogs, and other pets; 2. Prohibit the board from having jurisdiction over cattle, sheep, swine, goats, farmed cervidae poultry, or otherwise used food, or superseding the Board of Veterinary Medicine; 3. Require the board to consist of four licensed veterinarians (two practicing in the state, one employed by the Board of Animal Health, and one employed by the UM CVM), one county or municipal government employee, one member from a federally recognized Tribe, two at-large public, one member employed or a current board member of an animal shelter, one who is a commercial breeder, and one member who is licensed social worker or mental health professional who interacts with companion animals; 4. Require the board enforce state laws that regulate the licensing, enforcement, and inspections of cat and dog kennels, dealers, and commercial cats and dog breeders; and, 5. Require the board to administer a grant program to provide funding to achieve measurable outcomes in the care and welfare of companion animals. 	Introduced 2/2/2023
Minnesota	<u>MN H.F. 1850</u>	<p>Would establish the Office of Animal Protection within the Department of Public Safety to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote programs to protect the welfare of animals, coordinate with local law enforcement on the prevention of animal cruelty; 2. Provide assistance to shelters during emergencies; 3. Establish and maintain a statewide dangerous dog database; and, 4. Investigate allegations related to dangerous dogs. 	Introduced 2/16/2023
New York	<u>NY S.4108</u>	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Permit a breeder's veterinarian to euthanize an animal suffering from a congenital or hereditary disease; and, 2. Require a breeder to have a licensed veterinarian inspect their facilities, records, and animals every six months. 	Introduced 2/3/2023

Oklahoma	<u>OK H.B. 1992</u>	Would establish the Dog and Cat Bill of Rights, requiring shelters, rescues, humane societies, and other organizations to post a notice stating: “Dogs and cats deserve to be free from exploitation, cruelty, neglect, and abuse. Dogs and cats deserve a life of comfort, free of free and anxiety. Dogs and cats deserve daily mental stimulation and appropriate exercise considering the age and energy level of the dog and cat. Dogs and cats deserve nutritious food, sanitary water, and shelter in an appropriate and safe environment. Dogs and cats deserve regular and appropriate veterinary care. Dogs and cats deserve to be properly identified through tags, microchips, or other humane means. Dogs and cats deserve to be spayed and neutered to prevent unwanted litters.”	Introduced 2/6/2023
Texas	<u>TX H.B. 2063</u>	Would require a kennel, including those in veterinary clinics, to obtain informed consent before a dog or cat may be boarded and left unattended when employees are not present.	Introduced 2/8/2023
West Virginia	<u>WV H.B. 2082</u>	Would prohibit any ordinance that selectively applies to a particular breed or breed mix of dog.	Introduced 1/11/23

Education

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
California	<u>CA A.B. 1237</u>	Would establish the California Public Interest Veterinary Debt Relief Program to award funds to California-licensed veterinarians in relief of their educational loan debt who enter into a contract with the commission to provide veterinary services in eligible premises settings on a full-time basis.	Introduced 2/16/2023
Maryland	<u>MD H.B.1133</u>	Would establish a Veterinary Practitioner Student Loan Forgiveness Program to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture.	Introduced 2/10/2023
New Mexico	<u>NM S.B. 404 / NM H.B. 474</u>	Would authorize the Higher Education Department (HED) to pay back loans incurred by veterinarians and veterinary technicians who commit to practicing in shortage areas as designated by HED.	Introduced 2/10/2023
Texas	<u>TX H.B. 2026</u>	Would remove the requirement for a veterinarian to have graduated from a Texas-based veterinary school in order to participate in the Rural Veterinarian Incentive Program.	Introduced 2/8/2023

Emergency | First Responders

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Illinois	<u>IL H.B. 2542</u>	Would allow emergency medical service personnel to provide “preveterinary emergency care” to cats and dogs if they have received relevant training and are authorized to do so by their employer.	Introduced 2/15/2023
Iowa	<u>IA S.F. 299</u>	Would permit emergency medical care providers to diagnose and treat severe injuries suffered by police service dogs while on duty.	Introduced 2/15/2023
New York	<u>NY A.B. 3798 / NY S.B. 1968 / NY S.B. 4637</u>	Would: 1. Authorize emergency medical care personnel to provide basic first aid to dogs and cats; and, 2. Provide immunity from liability for emergency medical personnel, and licensed veterinarians who provide off-site instruction to such personnel, in providing basic first aid to a dog or cat.	Introduced 2/8/2023

Licensure			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Alaska	<u>AK S.B. 83 / AK H.B. 85</u>	Would change temporary “permit” to temporary “license” and remove the stipulation that a temporary license is valid only after applying for examination and until the results of required examinations are published.	Introduced 2/24/2023
Massachusetts	<u>MA H.D. 732</u>	Would prohibit the state’s board of veterinary medicine from denying the issuance of, revoking, or refusing to renew a license due to student loan payment default.	Introduced 1/17/2023
Minnesota	<u>MN S.F. 1773 / MN H.F. 1817</u>	Would: 1. Require any person who seeks to practice veterinary medicine while employed by the University of Minnesota and not a licensed veterinarian to apply to the veterinary board for an institutional license; and, 2. Define the scope of practice for institutional license holders as only as it relates to their regulator function at the University of Minnesota.	Introduced 2/16/2023
New Mexico	<u>NM H.B. 384</u>	Would provide for expedited licensure of out-of-state veterinarians who are in good standing in their jurisdiction and have practiced veterinary medicine for at least five years.	Introduced 2/10/2023

Livestock			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Connecticut	<u>CT H.B. 6726</u>	Would: 1. Allow the Commissioner of Agriculture to adopt regulations to prevent the spread of contagious and infectious diseases among livestock, including those that may be transmissible to humans directly or through animal products; 2. Restrict official testing for tuberculosis in livestock to veterinarians and USDA veterinarians, but allow surveillance tests to be performed by a trained department employee under the supervision of the State Veterinarian; 3. Require livestock infected with an infectious or contagious disease, including, but not limited to, tuberculosis, anthrax, or foot and mouth disease to be euthanized; 4. Require all livestock, cattle/bison, goats, camelids, Cervidae, and competition or exhibition equines entering the state to have a certificate of veterinary inspection; and, 5. Require all breeding swine to be tested for brucellosis and pseudorabies by a veterinarian, USDA veterinarian, or by a trained department employee under the supervision of the State Veterinarian.	Introduced 2/17/2023
Illinois	<u>IL S.B. 1891 / IL H.B. 3567</u>	Would: 1. Require feed distributors to report to the Department of Agriculture all Veterinary Feed Directives associated with medicated feed distributed to producers along with associated feed distribution records; and, 2. Have the Department of Agriculture set a target of reducing the use of medically important antibiotics in food processing by 50%.	Introduced 2/9/2023
Iowa	<u>IA H.F. 338</u>	Would require raw milk producers to hire a veterinarian once a year to examine the dairy animals, including blood testing for common diseases.	Introduced 2/20/2023
New York	<u>NY A.B. 3239</u>	Would prohibit the use of non-therapeutic anti-microbial agents in any animals raised for food or to create food products.	Introduced 2/23/2023

New York	<u>NY S.B. 4311 / NY A.B. 959</u>	Would: 1. Prohibit the operation of establishments where animals and/or fowls are slaughtered or butchered for food; and, 2. Create a task force on "public health risks and animal welfare concerns of slaughterhouses," one member of which would be required to be a licensed veterinarian.	Introduced 2/7/2023
Oklahoma	<u>OK S.B.66</u>	Would establish the Oklahoma Rural Investment for Sow Farms Program with an independent committee of reviewers comprised of veterinarians, farmers, and experienced animal wellbeing experts appointed by the Governor to analyze and recommend projects for approval.	Introduced 2/6/2023
Oklahoma	<u>OK H.B.2438</u>	Would establish the Oklahoma Pregnant Pigs Pilot Program to encourage investment and jobs in the swine industry related to responsible animal-care values towards animal husbandry.	Introduced 2/6/2023
West Virginia	<u>WV H.R. 16</u>	Would condemn the new FDA regulations and ask those in Congress and the federal government to rescind GFI No. 263 and require that the necessary animal drugs and medications remain easily accessible.	Introduced 2/21/2023

Pharmaceuticals | Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Alaska	<u>AK S.B. 51 / AK H.B. 56</u>	Would exempt a veterinarian from the requirements of the controlled substance prescription database.	Introduced 2/3/2023
Maryland	<u>MD H.B.1227</u>	Would: 1. Include veterinarians in the definition of "dispenser" for purposes of the PDMP when dispensing controlled substances for animals; and, 2. Provide that the PDMP is not required to disclose prescription drug monitoring data to veterinarians.	Introduced 2/12/2023
Oklahoma	<u>OK S.B. 665</u>	Would require every person who proposes or actively manufactures, distributes, dispenses, prescribes, administers, or uses for scientific purposes any controlled dangerous substance, within or into this state, to obtain a registration issued by the Director of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control.	Introduced 2/6/2023
Oklahoma	<u>OK S.B. 668</u>	Would include xylazine as a Schedule IV controlled substance.	Introduced 2/6/2023

Research | Research Animals

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Illinois	<u>IL S.B. 1882</u>	Would prohibit testing facilities from conducting a canine or feline toxicological experiment, with exceptions for medical research, some biologic testing, and some pesticide research.	Introduced 2/9/2023
Maryland	<u>MD S.B. 495</u>	Would: 1. Require each research facility and testing facility in the State to be licensed by the Department of Agriculture to use animals in research, education, or testing; 2. Establish requirements for the use and treatment of dogs or cats by a research facility or a testing facility; and, 3. Prohibit a research facility and a testing facility from using certain dogs and cats for research or testing purposes and performing certain procedures on dogs or cats.	Introduced 2/3/2023
New York	<u>NY A.3505</u>	Would: 1. Require research facilities to establish a policy for private placement process for the adoption of dogs and cats; and,	Introduced 2/3/2023

		2. Require a research facility to submit an annual report with the number of cats and dogs owned by the facility, the number of cats and dogs used for testing or research, and the total number of cats and dogs released for adoption.	
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Scope of Practice

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
California	CA A.B. 814	Would authorize a veterinarian to refer an animal to a licensed physical therapist holding an advanced certification to provide animal physical rehabilitation under the supervision of the veterinarian.	Introduced 2/13/2023
Florida	FL S.B. 932	Would prohibit non-therapeutic cat declawing.	Introduced 2/17/2023
Iowa	IA S.F. 283	Would prohibit the declawing of cats.	Introduced 2/14/2023
Iowa	IA H.S.B. 139 / IA S.S.B. 1183	Would: 1. Define “diagnosis” as the act or process of identifying or determining the health status of an animal, and includes the diagnosis of pregnancy through a manual or laboratory examination; 2. Define “surgery” as a branch of veterinary science conducted under elective or emergency circumstances to treat diseases, injuries, and deformities by manual or operative methods but excludes accepted livestock management practice; 3. Exclude animal massage therapy from the definition of the practice of veterinary medicine; 4. Define levels of supervision by a veterinarian; 5. Provide title protection for veterinary technicians; and, 6. Define tasks a veterinary technician and veterinary assistant may not perform and permit the veterinary board to outline tasks a veterinary technician can perform and under what level of supervision.	Introduced 2/7/2023
New Hampshire	NH H.B. 231	Would ban declawing in cats except when necessary to address the physical medical condition of the cat.	Introduced 2/7/2023
New York	NY A.3586	Would exclude the use of equine pulsed electromagnetic field therapy from the practice of veterinary medicine.	Introduced 2/3/2023
Oklahoma	OK H.B.1044	Would: 1. Permit a chiropractic physician to provide animal chiropractic diagnosis and treatment if certified by the board; and, 2. Permit an unlicensed chiropractic physician to provide animal chiropractic diagnosis and treatment if the animal has been referred to the chiropractic physician by a licensed veterinarian.	Introduced 2/6/2023
Rhode Island	RI S.B. 403	Would prohibit anyone from performing a non-therapeutic surgical claw removal, declawing, or tendonectomy on any cat or otherwise altering a cat's toes, claws, or paws to prevent or impair the normal functioning of the cat's toes, claws, or paws. This would not include the trimming of nonviable claw husk or placing nonpermanent nail caps.	Introduced 2/16/2023

Small Business

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Arkansas	AR H.B. 1453	Would: 1. Require emergency veterinary treatment of animals by veterinary practices and veterinarians;	Introduced 2/16/2023

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Require a veterinarian or veterinary practice to provide an appropriate medical screening examination to determine if an emergency medical condition exists; and, 3. Prohibit a veterinarian or veterinary practice from delaying the emergency treatment to establish the ability of an animal's representative to pay for care or the insurance status of the animal. 	Withdrawn 2/21/2023
Maine	ME L.D. 688	Would prohibit non-compete agreements when the employee is a veterinarian without an ownership stake in the practice.	Introduced 2/15/2023
New Hampshire	NH H.B. 249	Would establish regulatory standards for the sale of pet insurance.	Introduced 1/5/2023
New Jersey	NJ A.B. 5256 / NJ S.B. 3137	Would require the publication of prices for standard and emergency services provided by veterinarians.	Introduced 2/28/2023
New Mexico	NM H.B. 452	Would add veterinarians to the list of other healthcare providers for whom noncompete agreements are prohibited while providing exceptions for shareholders, owners, partners, or directors of a practice.	Introduced 2/16/2023

Spaying | Neutering

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
California	CA A.B. 240	Would establish a Spay-Neuter Fund, funded by a surcharge on the retail sale of dog and cat food, to offer grants to those whose primary activity is spaying and neutering.	Introduced 1/13/2023
Florida	FL H.B. 719 / S.B. 722	Would allow out-of-state veterinarians to perform dog or cat sterilization services or routine preventative health services at the time of sterilization as an unpaid volunteer under the supervision of a state-licensed veterinarian.	Introduced 2/10/2023
Maryland	MD S.B. 0937	Would allow grant funds from the State's spay/neuter fund to finance wellness care for cats/dogs at the time of service, mobile veterinary clinic transportation, and transportation services to bring animals to the clinic from an underserved area.	Introduced 2/17/2023

State Programs | Board of Veterinary Medicine

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Illinois	IL S.B. 1372	Would create a dog training licensure process regulated by a board that would have to have one member who is a veterinarian licensed in Illinois, either a board-certified veterinary behaviorist or has professional certification in dog training.	Introduced 2/6/2023

Taxes & Credits | Exemptions | Sale & Use

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Kansas	KS H.B. 2419	Would establish a tax credit for expenses incurred for the care of cats and dogs.	Introduced 2/15/2023
Virginia	VA H.B. 1406	Would eliminate the requirement for cat and dog owners to pay a license tax.	Introduced 2/7/2023

Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship | Telemedicine

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Florida	FL S.B. 554	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clarify that having an in-person examination is required to establish a VCPR; 2. Allow telemedicine to maintain a VCPR; 	Introduced 2/7/2023

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Allow a veterinarian with an existing VCPR to refer a specific patient to a specialist and the specialist to consult directly with the client through telemedicine under the referring veterinarian's VCPR as long as referring veterinarian is updated and consulted through the process of care and prescribing is done by the referring veterinarian; and, 4. Allow an employee, agent, or contractor of a county or municipal animal control authority acting under the indirect supervision of a licensed veterinarian to vaccinate impounded dogs, cats, and ferrets against rabies. 	
Florida	<u>FL H.B. 1117</u>	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allow a VCPR to be established by telemedicine; 2. Require a veterinarian practicing telemedicine to provide clients with a statement containing the veterinarian's identity, license number, and contact information, as well as contact information for at least one physical veterinary clinic in the vicinity of the pet's location and instructions for how to receive patient follow-up care or assistance if the veterinarian and client are unable to communicate because of a technological or equipment failure or if there is an adverse reaction to treatment; 3. Require the veterinarian practicing telemedicine to obtain a signed and dated statement from the client indicating the client has received the required information; 4. Allow a veterinarian practicing telemedicine to order, prescribe, or make available medicinal drugs, but not controlled substances unless an in-person physical exam or medically appropriate timely visits have occurred; and, 5. Allow an employee, agent, or contractor of a county or municipal animal control authority acting under the indirect supervision of a licensed veterinarian to vaccinate impounded dogs, cats, and ferrets against rabies. 	Introduced 2/23/2023
Illinois	<u>IL S.B. 2059 / IL H.B 2473</u>	<p>Would make changes to the veterinary practice act, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adding telehealth to the definition of the practice of veterinary medicine; 2. Requiring a physical in-person exam once every 12 months to practice telemedicine on the patient; and, 3. Allowing a supervising veterinarian to delegate telehealth services to a certified veterinary technician who is acting under direct or indirect supervision. 	Introduced 2/9/2023
Kentucky	<u>KY H.B. 167</u>	<p>Would update the veterinary practice act by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clarifying that a physical examination or medically appropriate in-person visit within the previous twelve months is required to establish a VCPR; 2. Permitting an established VCPR to extend to another veterinarian employed in the same registered facility who is also licensed to practice and has sufficient knowledge in the medical record to make a decision; 3. Prohibiting a VCPR from being established solely by telehealth means; 4. Creating a new permit class for allied animal health professionals practicing equine dentistry and animal chiropractic; 5. Providing title protection for licensed veterinarians and licensed veterinary technicians; 6. Establishing rules for telehealth, records retention, and veterinary facilities; 	Introduced 2/7/2023

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Providing the board increased authority to take action against those in violation of the Practice Act and those offering veterinary services without a board credential; 8. Establishing license renewal procedures for veterinary technicians, animal euthanasia specialists, and veterinary facilities; and, 9. Updating the Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners member to eleven members (seven veterinarians, one public member, one veterinary technician, one allied animal health professional permittee, and the Commissioner of Agriculture of their designee). 	
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Veterinary Technicians | Veterinary Assistants

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Arkansas	<u>AR H.B. 1182</u>	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Permit and define a “collaborative practice agreement” between a veterinarian and a veterinary technician specialist (VTS); 2. Require a veterinary technician specialist to complete eight additional hours of advanced continuing education in his or her specialty annually; 3. Prohibit a veterinarian from entering a collaborative practice agreement with more than three veterinary technician specialists at one time; 4. Permit veterinary technician specialists in a collaborative practice agreement to establish a preliminary VCPR on behalf of the veterinarian and order diagnostics, provide a diagnosis or a prognosis, and develop a treatment plan with the veterinarian; 5. Require the veterinarian to see the patient within fifteen days of the veterinary technician specialist establishing the preliminary VCPR; 6. Allow veterinary technician specialists to perform minor dental and surgical procedures under the supervision of a veterinarian, but not allow performance of abdominal, thoracic, orthopedic surgery and neurosurgery; and, 7. Not extend prescriptive authority to the VTS. 	Enacted 2/27/2023
Iowa	<u>IA H.F. 434</u>	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a position titled licensed veterinary technician; 2. Would create a process for certified technicians to become licensed technicians if they complete a program that concentrates on advanced aspects of the diagnosis and treatment of animal disease, illness, and injury); 3. Allow the veterinary board to require a licensure exam for licensed veterinary technicians; 4. Would prohibit auxiliary veterinary personnel from prescribing or administering drugs, and from structurally altering an animal’s body by incision or by removing or destroying bone/tissue; 5. Assign each level of auxiliary personnel their own level of supervision and tasks which may be delegated to them; 6. Would allow veterinarian to supervise a certified technician or licensed veterinary technician through audio or video remote technology; 7. Require the board to recognize auxiliary personnel credentials from other jurisdictions; and, 8. Create licensure protection for auxiliary personnel. 	Introduced 2/24/2023

Minnesota	<u>MN H.F. 1228</u> <u>/ MN S.F. 1522</u>	Would provide a voluntary pathway for the licensure of veterinary technicians and expand the responsibilities of technicians who are licensed.	Introduced 2/2/2023
North Carolina	<u>NC S.B. 135</u>	Would provide title protection for registered veterinary technicians.	Introduced 2/20/2023

Wildlife | Zoo Animals

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Connecticut	<u>CT H.B. 5156</u>	Would prohibit the exchange, sale, trade, and breeding of cetaceans.	Introduced 1/11/2023
Illinois	<u>IL S.B. 1883</u>	Would make it unlawful for any person to allow any member of the public to come into direct contact with a bear or nonhuman primate except licensed veterinarians, veterinary students accompanying a licensed veterinarian, and registered veterinary technicians under the direct or indirect supervision of a licensed veterinarian.	Introduced 2/9/2023
Minnesota	<u>MN S.F. 1484</u> / <u>MN H.F. 1401</u>	Would modify requirements for white-tailed deer farming, including requiring a veterinarian to verify the inventory of each herd and file with the board every 12 months.	Introduced 2/9/2023
Rhode Island	<u>RI H.B. 5345</u>	Would require a certificate of veterinary inspection to accompany the shipment of psittacine birds into the state. Currently, a permit from the director of environmental management is required before shipment.	Introduced 2/3/2023