

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

REVISED

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted
on Second Reading in the Second House*

LLS NO. 26-0173.01 Christopher McMichael x4775

HOUSE BILL 26-1198

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING INCREASING ACCESS TO VETERINARY CARE, AND, IN**
102 **CONNECTION THEREWITH, EXPEDITING THE PROCESS BY WHICH**
103 **A VETERINARIAN IS LICENSED BY ENDORSEMENT, CLARIFYING**
104 **THE USE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND COMPOUNDED DRUGS BY**
105 **VETERINARIANS, AND ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM FOR THE**
106 **DONATION OF VETERINARY DRUGS.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

The bill requires the state board of veterinary medicine (board) to

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

SENATE
Amended 2nd Reading
March 30, 2026

HOUSE
3rd Reading Unamended
March 9, 2026

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
March 6, 2026

expedite the process by which an individual who has a license to practice veterinary medicine in another state may be licensed by endorsement to practice veterinary medicine in Colorado. The bill directs the board to develop a list of states that have equivalent or substantially equivalent licensing requirements as Colorado and a list of states that have less stringent licensing requirements than Colorado. Where an individual is licensed will determine the process by which the individual may be licensed by endorsement in this state.

The bill also requires the board to expedite the process by which an individual who is registered as a veterinary technician in another state may obtain a registration by endorsement in Colorado. The board is required to develop a list of states that have equivalent or substantially equivalent registration requirements as Colorado and a list of states that have less stringent registration requirements than Colorado. Where an individual is registered will determine the process by which the individual may be registered by endorsement in this state. The board must also require a veterinary technician from another state to receive approval from a veterinary technician credentialing organization in Colorado before applying for a registration by endorsement.

The bill also establishes a veterinary prescription drug donation program. An owner of an animal may donate unused veterinary drugs that have been prescribed to the owner to a licensed veterinarian or an animal shelter. The licensed veterinarian or animal shelter may use any drugs accepted through donation if the veterinarian meets certain conditions.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-105, **amend**
3 **(3); and add (2)(b)(IV) as follows:**

4 **12-315-105. License requirements and exceptions - practice of**
5 **veterinary medicine - prescriptions - definitions - rules.**

6 **(2)(b)(IV)** A VETERINARIAN WHO ADMINISTERS, DISTRIBUTES,
7 DISPENSES, OR PRESCRIBES A PRESCRIPTION DRUG IN ACCORDANCE WITH
8 THIS SUBSECTION **(2)(b)** IS NOT CONDUCTING THE PRACTICE OF PHARMACY,
9 AS DEFINED IN SECTION 12-280-103 (39), IS NOT ACTING AS A
10 PHARMACIST, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 12-280-103 (35), AND IS NOT
11 SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINE BY THE STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY CREATED IN

1 SECTION 12-280-104 SOLELY FOR ADMINISTERING, DISTRIBUTING,
2 DISPENSING, OR PRESCRIBING A PRESCRIPTION DRUG IN ACCORDANCE WITH
3 THIS SUBSECTION (2)(b).

4 (3) If a veterinarian complies with the requirements of section
5 ~~12-280-121~~ 12-315-128 (2) AND (3), the veterinarian may maintain an
6 office stock of compounded drugs. As used in this subsection (3), "office
7 stock" has the same meaning as set forth in section 12-280-121 (5)(b).

8 SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, amend 12-315-109
9 as follows:

10 **12-315-109. License by endorsement - rules.**

11 (1) The board may issue a license by endorsement to engage in the
12 practice of veterinary medicine in this state to an applicant who satisfies
13 the requirements of the occupational credential portability program.

14 (2) THE BOARD SHALL REVIEW AND UPDATE EXISTING PROCEDURES
15 RELATED TO THE PROCESS BY WHICH AN INDIVIDUAL IS LICENSED BY
16 ENDORSEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION AND SHALL ADOPT
17 RULES WITH THE INTENT TO EXPEDITE THE LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT
18 PROCESS, WHICH MAY INCLUDE ELIMINATING DUPLICATIVE REQUIREMENTS
19 AND STREAMLINING THE PATHWAY TO LICENSURE.

20 SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add with amended
21 and relocated provisions 12-315-128 as follows:

22 **12-315-128. Compounding drugs for veterinary use -**
23 **dispensing of drugs by veterinarian - rules - definitions.**

24 (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
25 REQUIRES:

26 (a) (I) "COMPOUNDED" MEANS THE PREPARATION, MIXING,
27 ASSEMBLING, PACKAGING, OR LABELING OF A DRUG OR DEVICE:

1 (A) AS A RESULT OF A VETERINARIAN'S PRESCRIPTION DRUG
2 ORDER, CHART ORDER, OR INITIATIVE, BASED ON THE RELATIONSHIP
3 BETWEEN THE VETERINARIAN, PATIENT, AND PHARMACIST IN THE COURSE
4 OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE; OR

5 (B) FOR THE PURPOSE OF, OR AS AN INCIDENT TO, RESEARCH,
6 TEACHING, OR CHEMICAL ANALYSIS AND NOT FOR SALE OR DISPENSING.

7 (II) "COMPOUNDED" ALSO INCLUDES THE PREPARATION OF DRUGS
8 OR DEVICES IN ANTICIPATION OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG ORDERS BASED ON
9 ROUTINE, REGULARLY OBSERVED PRESCRIBING PATTERNS.

10 (b) "DRUG" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 12-280-103
11 (16).

12 (c) "OFFICE STOCK" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION
13 12-280-121 (5)(b).

14 (d) "PRESCRIPTION DRUG OUTLET" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH
15 IN SECTION 12-280-121 (5)(c).

16 (2) [Formerly 12-280-121 (2)] (a) A veterinarian may dispense
17 a compounded drug maintained as part of the veterinarian's office stock
18 pursuant to subsection (1) of this section only if

19 (f) the compounded drug is necessary for the treatment of an
20 animal A patient's emergency condition. and

21 (H) As determined by the veterinarian, the veterinarian cannot
22 access, in a timely manner, the compounded drug through a registered
23 prescription drug outlet.

24 (b) A veterinarian shall not dispense a compounded drug pursuant
25 to this section in an amount greater than the amount required to treat an
26 animal patient's emergency condition for five days A PATIENT'S
27 CONDITION.

1 (3) [Formerly 12-280-121 (3)] A licensed veterinarian shall not
2 administer or dispense a compounded drug maintained for office stock
3 pursuant to this section ~~or for office use pursuant to section 12-280-120~~
4 ~~(6)(b)~~ without a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship in place at
5 the time of administering the compounded drug to ~~an animal~~ A patient or
6 dispensing the compounded drug to a client.

7
8 (4) A VETERINARIAN MAY COMPOUND AND DISPENSE
9 COMPOUNDED DRUGS FOR ANY PATIENT FOR WHICH THE VETERINARIAN
10 HAS A VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP AND THE
11 VETERINARIAN DETERMINES THAT IT IS DESIRABLE OR NECESSARY FOR THE
12 TREATMENT OF THE PATIENT'S CONDITION.

13 (5) THE BOARD MAY ADOPT ANY RULES NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT
14 AND ADMINISTER THIS SECTION.

15 **SECTION 4. Repeal of relocated provisions in this act.** In
16 Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal** 12-280-121 (2) and (3).

17 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-201, **amend**
18 (1)(a)(I) as follows:

19 **12-315-201. Additional board duties - rules - repeal.**

20 (1) In addition to any other duties specified in this part 2 and
21 sections 12-315-105.5 and 12-315-106, the board shall:

22 (a) Approve a nationally recognized veterinary technician
23 credentialing organization for purposes of credentialing veterinary
24 technicians in this state. The credentialing organization approved by the
25 board must:

26 (I) Require the completion of an ~~American Veterinary Medical~~
27 ~~Association-accredited~~ ACCREDITED program for veterinary technicians;

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SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 12-315-127 as follows:

12-315-127. Veterinary drug donation program - rules.

(1) AN OWNER OF AN ANIMAL MAY DONATE A PRESCRIPTION DRUG THAT IS DISPENSED FOR BUT NOT USED BY THE ANIMAL TO A LICENSED VETERINARIAN OR ANIMAL SHELTER IN WHICH VETERINARY MEDICINE IS PRACTICED IF THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN OR ANIMAL SHELTER ACCEPTS THE DRUG.

(2) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (4)(b) OF THIS SECTION, A LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY REISSUE A DONATED DRUG ACCEPTED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION TO FILL OTHER PRESCRIPTIONS DISPENSED BY THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN FREE OF CHARGE FOR AN ANIMAL IF:

(a) THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN DETERMINES THAT THE OWNER OF THE ANIMAL IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE REISSUANCE OF THE DRUG;

(b) THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN DETERMINES THAT THE DRUG IS SUITABLE FOR REISSUANCE;

(c) THE DRUG WAS ORIGINALLY DISPENSED BY A LICENSED VETERINARIAN OR A LICENSED PHARMACIST;

(d) THE DRUG IS NOT A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE;

(e) THE DRUG IS NOT A COMPOUNDED DRUG;

(f) THE DRUG DOES NOT REQUIRE REFRIGERATION BEFORE OPENING;

(g) THE DRUG IS NOT IN A LIQUID FORM OR, IF IN LIQUID FORM, THE DRUG IS PACKAGED IN AN UNOPENED VIAL OR A SINGLE-DOSE UNOPENED AMPULE;

(h) THE DRUG IS NOT EXPIRED;

1 (i) THE PACKAGING OR BOTTLE CONTAINS THE EXPIRATION DATE
2 OF THE DRUG; AND

3 (j) THE NAME OF THE ANIMAL, THE NAME OF THE OWNER OF THE
4 ANIMAL FOR WHICH THE DRUG WAS ORIGINALLY DISPENSED, THE
5 PRESCRIPTION NUMBER, AND ANY OTHER IDENTIFYING MARKS OR
6 INFORMATION ARE OBLITERATED FROM THE PACKAGING OR BOTTLE
7 BEFORE THE DRUG IS REISSUED.

8 (3) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN SHALL:

9 (a) IDENTIFY AND MAINTAIN SEPARATELY FROM OTHER STOCK A
10 DONATED DRUG ACCEPTED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION; AND

11 (b) MAKE A RECORD OF EACH DONATED DRUG ACCEPTED
12 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION THAT INCLUDES, AT MINIMUM:

13 (I) THE DATE ON WHICH THE DRUG WAS DONATED;

14 (II) THE NAME OF THE PERSON THAT DONATED THE DRUG;

15 (III) THE ANIMAL FOR WHICH THE DRUG WAS ORIGINALLY
16 PRESCRIBED AND THE NAME OF THE OWNER OF THE ANIMAL; AND

17 (IV) THE EXPIRATION DATE OF THE DRUG.

18 (4) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN SHALL NOT:

19 (a) SELL OR RESELL A DONATED DRUG ACCEPTED PURSUANT TO
20 THIS SECTION; OR

21 (b) DISPENSE A DONATED DRUG ACCEPTED PURSUANT TO THIS
22 SECTION TO FILL OTHER PRESCRIPTIONS DISPENSED BY THE LICENSED
23 VETERINARIAN FOR AN ANIMAL IF THE ANIMAL IS RAISED TO PRODUCE
24 FOOD FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION OR THE ANIMAL IS ORDINARILY
25 CONSUMED BY ANIMALS THAT ARE RAISED TO PRODUCE FOOD FOR HUMAN
26 CONSUMPTION.

27 (5) (a) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN, ANIMAL SHELTER IN WHICH

1 VETERINARY MEDICINE IS PRACTICED, OR OTHER PERSON THAT EXERCISES
2 REASONABLE CARE IN DONATING OR ACCEPTING, DISTRIBUTING, OR
3 DISPENSING A DONATED DRUG IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION AND
4 ANY RULES ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION IS NOT SUBJECT TO CIVIL
5 OR CRIMINAL LIABILITY OR DISCIPLINARY ACTION BY A PROFESSIONAL
6 LICENSING BOARD FOR ANY LOSS, INJURY, OR DEATH THAT RESULTS FROM
7 THE DONATION OF A DRUG OR THE ACCEPTANCE, DISTRIBUTION, OR
8 DISPENSATION OF THE DONATED DRUG.

9 (b) A MANUFACTURER OF A DRUG IS NOT SUBJECT TO CIVIL OR
10 CRIMINAL LIABILITY FOR ANY CLAIM OR INJURY ARISING FROM THE
11 DONATION OF THE DRUG OR ACCEPTANCE, DISTRIBUTION, OR
12 DISPENSATION OF THE DONATED DRUG PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION AND
13 ANY RULES ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

14 (6) THE BOARD MAY ADOPT RULES AS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT
15 THIS SECTION, INCLUDING:

16 (a) REQUIREMENTS FOR ISSUING DONATED DRUGS PURSUANT TO
17 THIS SECTION, INCLUDING REQUIREMENTS THAT PROVIDE APPROPRIATE
18 SAFEGUARDS FOR ENSURING THAT THE DRUGS ARE NOT COMPROMISED OR
19 ILLEGALLY DIVERTED BEFORE BEING REISSUED;

20 (b) REQUIREMENTS FOR A LICENSED VETERINARIAN'S OR ANIMAL
21 SHELTER'S ACCEPTANCE OF DONATED DRUGS; AND

22 (c) REQUIREMENTS FOR MAINTAINING RECORDS RELATED TO THE
23 ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF DONATED DRUGS TO FILL OTHER PRESCRIPTIONS
24 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

25 **SECTION 7. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-280-119, amend**
26 **(12)(b) and (12)(c) as follows:**

27 **12-280-119. Registration of facilities - rules.**

1 (12) (b) The board may issue a limited license to an animal shelter
2 or animal control agency to perform the activities described in section
3 ~~12-280-120 (17)~~ **12-315-128 (4)**.

4 (c) The board shall adopt rules as necessary to ensure strict
5 compliance with this subsection (12) and section ~~12-280-120 (17)~~
6 **12-315-128 (4)** and, in conjunction with the state board of veterinary
7 medicine, shall develop criteria for training individuals in the
8 administration of the drug or combination of drugs.

9 **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-280-127, **amend**
10 **(1)(b)** as follows:

11 **12-280-127. Disciplinary actions.**

12 (1) (b) The board may suspend or revoke a registration issued
13 pursuant to section 12-280-119 (12) upon determination that the person
14 administering a drug or combination of drugs to an animal has not
15 demonstrated adequate knowledge required by sections 12-280-119 (12)
16 and ~~12-280-120 (17)~~ **12-315-128 (4)**.

17 **SECTION 9. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
18 takes effect January 1, 2027; except that, if a referendum petition is filed
19 pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this
20 act or an item, section, or part of this act within the ninety-day period
21 after final adjournment of the general assembly, then the act, item,
22 section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the
23 general election to be held in November 2026 and, in such case, will take
24 effect January 1, 2027, or on the date of the official declaration of the
25 vote thereon by the governor, whichever is later.