

SENATE BILL NO. 57—COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND LABOR

(ON BEHALF OF THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF
VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS)

PREFILED DECEMBER 7, 2008

Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

SUMMARY—Makes various changes relating to veterinary
medicine. (BDR 54-419)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to veterinary medicine; revising the list of activities that may be performed without a veterinary license; authorizing the Nevada State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners to approve foreign equivalency programs; authorizing the Board to grant a license without examination to veterinarians licensed in another state; requiring the renewal of licenses and certificates of registration biennially rather than annually; authorizing the Board to adopt regulations establishing grounds for disciplinary action against certain facilities and veterinarians; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Section 1 of this bill limits the gratuitous acts that friends or neighbors may perform to only livestock, rather than all domesticated animals, and requires that certain vaccines be administered by a licensed veterinarian or someone under a veterinarian's direction. **Section 1** also allows nonveterinarians and veterinarians from other states to consult with a veterinarian licensed in this State without requiring that person to comply with the laws governing veterinary practice in this State. (NRS 638.015)

Section 2 of this bill allows the Nevada State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners to determine which equivalency programs may be used to satisfy a requirement for licensure as a veterinarian. (NRS 638.100)

Section 3 of this bill allows for veterinary licenses to be granted on the basis of reciprocity with other jurisdictions under certain circumstances. (NRS 638.105)



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Section 4 of this bill revises the renewal period for all licenses and certificates of registration issued by the Board so that they must be renewed biennially rather than annually. **Section 4** also establishes statutory limits for the renewal fees for such licenses and certificates of registration, which currently have no limit in existing statutes. (NRS 638.127)

Section 5 of this bill allows the Board to adopt regulations prescribing grounds for disciplinary action against facilities in which veterinary medicine is practiced and against the veterinarian in charge of such facilities. (NRS 638.132)

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. NRS 638.015 is hereby amended to read as follows:
638.015 Nothing in this chapter applies:

1. To the gratuitous castrating, dehorning or vaccinating of ~~domesticated animals~~ *livestock* nor to the gratuitous treatment of diseased animals by friends or neighbors of the owner thereof, except that all vaccinations for zoonotic diseases *utilizing vaccines that are conditionally licensed pursuant to the authority granted by NRS 571.120* must be administered by a licensed veterinarian or a person under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

2. To debar any veterinarian in the employ of the United States Government or the State of Nevada from performing official duties necessary for the conduct of the business of the United States Government or the State of Nevada, or a political subdivision thereof, upon which he is assigned.

3. To any person who is a diplomate from an approved specialty board of the American Veterinary Medical Association who is called into the State for consultation by a person licensed to practice under this chapter for a period not to exceed 30 days in any 12-month period if he practices under the auspices of a licensed veterinarian.

4. To the giving of advice with respect to , or the performance of acts which the Board by rule has prescribed as , accepted livestock management practices.

5. To the owner of an animal or full-time regular employee of the owner who is caring for and treating an animal which belongs to the owner unless the ownership of the animal is transferred for the purposes of circumventing this chapter, except that all vaccinations for zoonotic diseases *utilizing vaccines that are conditionally licensed pursuant to the authority granted by NRS 571.120* must be administered by a licensed veterinarian or a person under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

6. To any person or agency that performs humane services for wildlife animals without charge.



7. To any person, other than a veterinarian, who renders aid, assistance or relief to an animal in an emergency without charge if he does not represent himself as holding a license to practice veterinary medicine or as holding a degree in veterinary medicine or other related field.

8. To any person, other than a veterinarian, who renders emergency paramedical services to an animal without charge during the transportation of the animal to a veterinary facility.

9. To any person whose service is limited to consulting with a veterinarian licensed in this State and who:

(a) Is a veterinarian who is licensed in another state or country; or

(b) Has expertise, in the opinion of the veterinarian, that would benefit an animal.

Sec. 2. NRS 638.100 is hereby amended to read as follows:

638.100 1. Any person who desires to secure a license to practice veterinary medicine, surgery, obstetrics or dentistry in the State of Nevada must make written application to the Executive Director of the Board.

2. The application must include all information required to complete the application and any other information required by the Board and must be accompanied by satisfactory proof that the applicant:

(a) Is of good moral character;

(b) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, has received a diploma conferring the degree of doctor of veterinary medicine or its equivalent from a school of veterinary medicine that is accredited by the Council on Education of the American Veterinary Medical Association or, if the applicant is a graduate of a school of veterinary medicine that is not accredited by the Council on Education of the American Veterinary Medical Association, that he has received an educational certificate issued ~~[by the Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates of the American Veterinary Medical Association or, if the Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates of the American Veterinary Medical Association ceases to exist,]~~ by an organization approved by the Board ~~[that]~~ *which* certifies that the holder of the certificate has demonstrated knowledge and skill of veterinary medicine that is equivalent to the knowledge and skill of veterinary medicine of a graduate of a college of veterinary medicine that is accredited by the Council on Education of the American Veterinary Medical Association;

(c) Has passed each examination required by the Board pursuant to NRS 638.110; and



(d) Is a citizen of the United States or is lawfully entitled to remain and work in the United States.

3. A veterinary student in his final year at a school accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association may submit an application to the Board and take the state examination administered by the Board, but the Board may not issue him a license until he has complied with the requirements of subsection 2.

4. The application must be signed by the applicant, notarized and accompanied by a fee set by the Board, not to exceed \$500.

5. The Board may refuse to issue a license if the Board determines that an applicant has committed an act which would be a ground for disciplinary action if the applicant were a licensee.

Sec. 3. NRS 638.105 is hereby amended to read as follows:

~~638.105 [1. The Board may in its discretion license an applicant solely on the basis of oral interviews and practical demonstrations upon sufficient proof that the applicant has, within the previous 5 years, successfully passed any examination approved by:~~

~~—(a) The Board; and~~

~~—(b) A national testing service for veterinary medicine that has been approved by the Board.~~

~~—2.] The Board may [upon] :~~

1. Grant a license without any examination to any person certified, registered or licensed by a board of veterinary medicine of another state if:

(a) The Board determines that the requirements in that state are at least equivalent to the requirements of this chapter; and

(b) The applicant has been continuously and actively engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine for at least 7,000 hours during the 5 years immediately preceding his application for licensure.

2. Utilize its discretion in determining whether to grant a license pursuant to the provisions of this section and whether to impose conditions upon any such license granted to an applicant who:

(a) Has been disciplined in another state or jurisdiction in connection with his license to practice veterinary medicine; or

(b) Has committed any act in another state or jurisdiction that would be a violation of this chapter if committed in this State.

3. Upon payment of the fee prescribed [under] pursuant to NRS 638.100 [1] or 638.122, as applicable, license without examination any person who is a diplomate from an approved specialty board of the American Veterinary Medical Association [1. The veterinary practice of any person who is licensed pursuant to this subsection is limited to the specialty in which the person is



~~certified.]~~ or any veterinary technician who is a credentialed specialist recognized by the American Veterinary Medical Association. If an applicant for a license under this section is denied a license, any fee tendered by him may be returned to him at the discretion of the Board.

Sec. 4. NRS 638.127 is hereby amended to read as follows:

638.127 1. *To renew a license or certificate of registration issued pursuant to this chapter, each person must, ~~[On]~~ on or before ~~[November 15]~~ February 1 of each even-numbered year ~~;~~ the Executive Director shall mail to each person licensed under the provisions of this chapter an application form for the renewal of his license.] :*

- (a) *Submit an application for renewal to the Board;*
- (b) *Pay the fee for renewal and make full payment of all fines and money owed to the Board;*
- (c) *Submit evidence to the Board of his completion of any requirement for continuing education; and*
- (d) *Submit all other information required by the Board to complete the renewal.*

2. ~~[Each applicant for renewal must complete the form and return it to the Executive Director, accompanied by all information required to complete the renewal, the renewal fee and full payment of all fines which he owes to the Board, on or before January 1 of each year. Each application for renewal must be signed by the applicant. The renewal fee for licensees and persons on inactive status must be in an amount determined by the Board.]~~ *The Board may charge and collect fees for renewals not to exceed the following amounts:*

<i>For the biennial renewal of an active license to practice veterinary medicine.....</i>	<i>\$750</i>
<i>For the biennial renewal of an inactive license to practice veterinary medicine.....</i>	<i>400</i>
<i>For the biennial renewal of a license to practice as a veterinary technician.....</i>	<i>300</i>
<i>For the biennial renewal of a license to practice as a euthanasia technician.....</i>	<i>300</i>
<i>For the biennial renewal of a certificate of registration to practice animal physical therapy.....</i>	<i>200</i>
<i>For the biennial renewal of a certificate of registration to practice animal chiropractic.....</i>	<i>200</i>
<i>For the biennial renewal of a license issued to a facility owned by a licensed veterinarian</i>	<i>200</i>
<i>For the biennial renewal of a license issued to a facility owned by an unlicensed veterinarian.....</i>	<i>750</i>



3. Upon receipt of the application and all required information and payment of the renewal fee and all fines *and money* owed, the Board shall issue to that person a certificate of renewal.

4. Any person who fails to renew his license on or before ~~March~~ *April* 1 of ~~each~~ *the renewal* year forfeits his license.

5. When a person has forfeited his license in the manner provided in subsection 4, the Board may reinstate the license and issue a certificate of renewal upon receipt of all information required to complete the renewal and payment of:

(a) The renewal fee;

(b) All fines *or money* owed ~~to the Board~~; and

(c) A delinquency penalty of \$50 for each month or fraction thereof the license was not renewed after ~~January~~ *February* 1.

6. If a licensee does not practice for more than 12 consecutive months, the Board may require him to take an examination to determine his competency before renewing his license.

~~[7.—If a licensee does not renew his license and he is licensed to practice in another state or territory of the United States, the Board may not issue him a license to practice in the State by reciprocity. Such a licensee must reinstate his license in the manner prescribed by the Board.]~~

Sec. 5. NRS 638.132 is hereby amended to read as follows:

638.132 The Board shall adopt regulations which prescribe the requirements for the licensure of a facility in which veterinary medicine is practiced, including, without limitation, the fee for the issuance and renewal of a license ~~and the grounds for disciplinary action to be taken against the facility or the veterinarian in charge of the facility.~~

Sec. 6. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 4 of this act, a license or certificate of registration issued pursuant to chapter 638 of NRS or the regulations adopted pursuant thereto which:

1. Was issued or renewed before July 1, 2009; and

2. Is active and in good standing as of December 31, 2009,
→ expires on January 31, 2010, unless suspended, revoked or otherwise rendered inactive pursuant to chapter 638 of NRS or the regulations adopted pursuant thereto.

Sec. 7. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2009.

