



MEMORANDUM

DATE	April 8, 2022
TO	Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee (MDC)
FROM	<u>RVT Education Subcommittee</u> Leah Shufelt, RVT Jennifer Loreda, RVT
SUBJECT	Agenda Item 6. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding RVT Educational Programs

Background

As discussed in more detail [here](#), the MDC was tasked with researching the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act statutes and supporting regulations related to approving registered veterinary technician (RVT) educational programs, as well as other RVT educational accreditation/approval bodies, to determine whether the Veterinary Medical Board's (Board) role in the approval process should be reduced or eliminated.

Specifically, the MDC was asked to:

1. Conduct an in-depth review of pertinent statutes and regulations and whether removing the Board approval requirement would impact out-of-state RVT schools and the alternate pathway for RVT applicants.
2. Provide a comparison of other states requiring veterinary technician program accreditation.
3. Determine what other accrediting bodies exist and compare the accrediting body requirements and ongoing oversight.
4. Determine how many veterinary technician programs accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) are in California.
5. Review the pending RVT education rulemaking to see if additional amendments should be made, as it does not appear this type of research was considered for the RVT program accreditation/Board approval issue.

Subcommittee Research and Recommendations

Since the last MDC meeting, the Subcommittee has begun researching the following:

- Looking at ways in which removing Board approval could affect out-of-state graduates:
 - California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 16, section [2066](#), subsection (a), allows for AVMA-accredited program graduates from out-of-state schools to be deemed to

have completed the two-year curriculum requirement, which would not be affected if the Board's role in approving RVT schools was changed or eliminated.

- CCR, title 16, section [2066](#), subsection (b), requires graduates of out-of-state, non-AVMA approved schools that are not approved by the Board to demonstrate: (1) the education they have received is equivalent to the regulatory educational requirements, as specified; and (2) that the program has been approved by a licensing body in the United States (U.S.), Canadian province, or U.S. or Canadian territory (burden of proof on the student). These graduates likely would not be affected if the Board removed its approval requirement, since this path is for graduates of schools with no Board approval. Potentially these schools could go through similar process the Subcommittee is looking at for alternate route programs.
- Looking at other accrediting bodies that approve RVT programs in California, which are the following:
 - AVMA Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities (AVMA CVTEA);
 - Bureau of Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE); and,
 - Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC).
- Comparing the standards for accreditation of each of these bodies.
 - The AVMA CVTEA has established 11 standards for accreditation for approval of programs with ongoing oversight and the added benefit of specific pass rate metrics for graduating students to pass the VTNE to maintain accreditation. There are currently 23 AVMA-accredited schools in California.

While there is no action requested at this time, the Subcommittee's research thus far indicates that the requirement for AVMA-accredited RVT programs to also go through an application/approval process with the Board does not provide any additional consumer protection. As such, the Subcommittee will likely recommend removing that requirement from statute (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 4841.5, subd. (a)) and/or regulation.

Next Steps

The Subcommittee plans to continue researching this topic by:

- Reaching out to the American Association of Veterinary State Boards to determine other state requirements for veterinary technician program accreditation.
- Reviewing the Board's pending RVT education rulemaking to see if additional amendments should be made.

The Subcommittee will continue to research and provide a further update at the July meeting.