



MEMORANDUM

DATE	January 3, 2025
TO	Veterinary Medical Board (Board)
FROM	Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee (MDC) Richard Sullivan, DVM, Chair
SUBJECT	Agenda Item 6. Update, Discussion, and Potential Recommendation from the Executive Subcommittee

B. Recommendation on Legislative Proposal to Repeal Business and Professions Code (BPC) Sections 4838 and 4846.5 and Add Article 3.1 (Sections 4858, 4858.1, 4858.2, and 4858.3) Regarding Continuing Education

BPC section [4838](#) allows the California Veterinary Medical Board (Board) to require registered veterinary technicians (RVTs) as a condition of renewal to continue their education and inform themselves of the developments in the field of animal health technology by pursuing one or more courses of study satisfactory to the Board or by other means deemed equivalent by the Board.

California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 16, section [2086.2](#) requires RVTs to complete at least 20 hours of approved continuing education for the second and subsequent registration renewals. In addition to CE course requirements, CCR, title 16, section [2086.4](#) establishes CE credit for RVTs who teach a qualifying CE course or participates as an expert examiner, as specified. (Since the state exam was repealed, there no longer is CE credit for participating as an expert examiner.)

During the Board’s July 2024 meeting, the California Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) requested the Board consider an amendment to CCR, title 16, section [2086.4](#) to allow RVTs to qualify for up to two units or hours of CE credit for providing pro bono spay and neuter services to public animal control agencies or shelters, rescue groups, and humane societies.

Pursuant to BPC section [4846.5](#), subdivision (b)(2)(B), veterinarians may earn up to four CE hours providing pro bono spaying and neutering services as follows:

Up to four hours may be earned by providing pro bono spaying or neutering services under the supervision of a public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group. The services shall be administered at a facility that is appropriately equipped and staffed to provide those services. The service shall be provided to a household with a demonstrated financial need for reduced-cost services.

The Subcommittee believes allowing RVTs to earn CE hours for performing pro bono animal health care tasks related to spay and neuter services is reasonable and promotes access to veterinary care by finding solutions to affordable spay and neuter services in California.

In September 2024, Board staff and counsels met with CVMA representatives to discuss CVMA's proposal. During that meeting, BPC section [4838](#) was reviewed for Board authority to allow by regulation CE credit for the performance of animal health care tasks. Board counsels determined the statute likely should be amended to clarify the Board's ability to authorize CE credit for performance of pro bono animal health care tasks associated with spay and neuter services.

It also was noted that mirroring the veterinarian spay and neuter services CE credit in RVT regulations likely would not be successful due to vague and ambiguous language such as "*appropriately* equipped and staffed," and "*demonstrated* financial need." CVMA also noted that BPC section [4846.5](#) needed to be revised to strike the reference to the shelters and rescue group supervision, since veterinarians are not required to be supervised to provide spay and neutering services. There were also concerns with what "a demonstrated financial need" meant. For these reasons, it was agreed a legislative proposal was the best option forward.

After reviewing the statutes and regulations related to veterinarian and RVT CE, it became apparent that a larger legislative proposal should be submitted to clean up the CE related statutes.

Currently, there are two statutes and 24 regulations related to CE, most of which are duplicated for veterinarians and RVTs. In addition, the statutory structure for veterinarian and RVT CE requirements are vastly different. Having so many laws to reference in various parts of the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act and supporting regulations causes confusion for licensees trying to comply with their requirements and Board staff trying to conduct CE audits.

As such, the Subcommittee recommends repealing the two current CE related statutes, BPC sections [4838](#) and [4846.5](#), and adding four new statutes (which mostly mirror and/or combine existing laws) under one new article in the BPC. The legislative proposal is attached for the MDC's consideration. If/when this legislative proposal becomes effective, a Section 100 Rulemaking package may be submitted to repeal most CE-related regulations.

The substantive policy changes in the attached legislative proposal, highlighted in yellow, are:

- Adding the ability for RVTs to earn up to two CE hours for performing pro bono animal health care tasks related to spay and neuter services.
- Adding the ability for RVTs to earn up to 16 hours for participating as an expert in an examination preparation workshop for the national licensing examination.

All other changes are intended for clean up purposes only.

The legislative proposal would repeal BPC sections 4838 and 4846.5, and create new Article 3.1, broken into four new sections as follows:

- 4858: Specifies general renewal requirements and various implementation related sections from existing laws.
- 4858.1: Includes existing veterinarian CE requirements and credit and condenses statutorily approved providers. It also addresses previously mentioned concerns related to the four CE hours for pro bono spaying and neutering services.
- 4858.2: Includes existing RVT CE requirements and credit, condenses approved providers, and adds the ability for RVTs to earn up to two CE hours for performing pro bono animal health care tasks related to spay and neuter services.
- 4858.3: Includes existing CE certificate and record requirements.

The rationale for each proposed amendment is provided in italicized brackets. This is included for informational purposes only and is not considered part of the legislative proposal to be submitted to the California State Legislature.

Action Requested:

If the Board agrees with the MDC/Subcommittee’s legislative proposal recommendation, please entertain a motion to submit to the California State Legislature the legislative proposal to repeal BPC sections 4838 and 4846.5 and add Article 3.1 (sections 4858, 4858.1, 4858.2, and 4858.3) regarding continuing education.

C. Proposed Legislation to Further Amend BPC Section 4841.5 Regarding Veterinary Technician Registration Examination Requirements

The second legislative proposal would further amend BPC section 4841.5, submitted in the Board’s 2025 Sunset Review Report, to update the statutory reference to continuing education in the national veterinary technician exam requirement in accordance with the new CE article proposed above.

Action Requested:

If the Board agrees with the MDC/Subcommittee’s legislative proposal recommendation, please entertain a motion to submit to the California State Legislature the legislative proposal to further amend BPC section 4841.5 regarding veterinary technician registration examination requirements.

D. Proposed Legislation to Amend BPC Sections 4846 and 4848.1 Regarding Veterinarian License Requirements

The third legislative proposal would amend BPC sections 4846 and 4848.1 to update continuing education cross references in accordance with the new CE article proposed above.

Action Requested:

If the Board agrees with the MDC/Subcommittee's legislative proposal recommendation, please entertain a motion to submit to the California State Legislature the legislative proposal to amend BPC sections 4846 and 4848.1 regarding veterinarian license requirements.

E. Proposed Legislation to Amend BPC Section 4883 Regarding Disciplinary Action

The fourth legislative proposal would amend BPC section 4883, subdivision (k), to authorize Board discipline against a license, registration, or permit for the employment of fraud, misrepresentation, or deception in renewing the license as follows:

(k) The employment of fraud, misrepresentation, or deception in obtaining or renewing the license, ~~or registration, or permit.~~

This amendment, identified in double underline, would be added to the existing legislative proposal included in the Board's 2025 Sunset Review Report and is intended to move the existing grounds for discipline in BPC section 4846.5, subdivision (g), for knowing misrepresentation of continuing education compliance to the corresponding statute relating to obtaining a license. This change would streamline the statutes by maintaining grounds for discipline in one section.

Action Requested:

If the Board agrees with the MDC/Subcommittee's legislative proposal recommendation, please entertain a motion to Submit to the California State Legislature the legislative proposal to amend BPC section 4883 regarding disciplinary action.

Attachments:

1. Legislative Proposal to Repeal 4838 and 4846.5 and Add Article 3.1 (Sections 4858, 4858.1, 4858.2, and 4858.3) Regarding Continuing Education
2. Legislative Proposal to Further to Amend BPC Section 4841.5 Regarding Veterinary Technician Registration Examination Requirements
3. Legislative Proposal to Amend BPC Sections 4846 and 4848.1 Regarding Veterinarian License Requirements

CALIFORNIA VETERINARY MEDICAL BOARD

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL TO REPEAL SECTIONS 4838 and 4846.5, AND ADD ARTICLE 3.1 (COMMENCING WITH SECTION 4858) TO THE BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE RELATING TO CONTINUING EDUCATION

Proposed amendments are indicated in underline for new text and ~~strikethrough~~ for deleted text.

Repeal Section 4838 of Article 2.5 of Chapter of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code as follows:

~~**4838.** Effective with the 1976 renewal period, if the board determines that the public health and safety would be served by requiring all registrants under the provisions of this article to continue their education after receiving such registration, it may require, as a condition of renewal, that they submit assurances satisfactory to the board that they will, during the succeeding renewal period, inform themselves of the developments in the field of animal health technology since the issuance of their certificate of registration by pursuing one or more courses of study satisfactory to the board or by other means deemed equivalent by the board.~~

~~The board shall adopt regulations providing for the suspension of registration at the end of each annual renewal period until compliance with the assurances provided for in this section is accomplished.~~

Repeal Section 4846.5 of Article 3 of Chapter 11 of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code as follows:

~~**4846.5.** (a) Except as provided in this section, the board shall issue renewal licenses only to those applicants that have completed a minimum of 36 hours of continuing education in the preceding two years. [New BPC § 4858.1(a)]~~

~~(b) (1) Notwithstanding any other law, continuing education hours shall be earned by attending courses relevant to veterinary medicine and sponsored or cosponsored by any of the following: [New BPC § 4858.1(a)]~~

~~(A) American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) accredited veterinary medical colleges. [Combined (A)-(E), (G) into new BPC § 4858.1(b)(1)(A)]~~

~~(B) Accredited colleges or universities offering programs relevant to veterinary medicine.~~

~~(C) The American Veterinary Medical Association.~~

~~(D) American Veterinary Medical Association recognized specialty or affiliated allied groups.~~

~~(E) American Veterinary Medical Association's affiliated state veterinary medical associations.~~

~~(F) Nonprofit annual conferences established in conjunction with state veterinary medical associations. [Combined (F), (G), (H) into new BPC § 4858.1(b)(1)(B)]~~

~~(G) Educational organizations affiliated with the American Veterinary Medical Association or its state affiliated veterinary medical associations.~~

~~(H) Local veterinary medical associations affiliated with the California Veterinary Medical Association.~~

~~(I) Federal, state, or local government agencies. [New BPC § 4858.1(b)(1)(C)]~~

~~(J) Providers accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) or approved by the American Medical Association (AMA), providers recognized by the American Dental Association Continuing Education Recognition Program (ADA CERP), and AMA or ADA affiliated state, local, and specialty organizations. [New BPC § 4858.1(b)(1)(D)]~~

~~(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a total of six hours or less of the required 36 hours of continuing education may be earned by doing either of the following, or a combination thereof: [New BPC § 4858.1(b)(2)]~~

~~(A) Up to six hours may be earned by taking self-study courses, which may include, but are not limited to, reading journals, viewing video recordings, or listening to audio recordings.~~

~~(B) Up to four hours may be earned by providing pro bono spaying or neutering services under the supervision of a public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group. The services shall be administered at a facility that is appropriately equipped and staffed to provide those services. The service shall be provided to a household with a demonstrated financial need for reduced-cost services.~~

~~(3) The board may approve other continuing veterinary medical education providers not specified in paragraph (1). [Board previously approved striking]~~

~~(A) The board has the authority to recognize national continuing education approval bodies for the purpose of approving continuing education providers not specified in paragraph (1).~~

~~(B) Applicants seeking continuing education provider approval shall have the option of applying to the board or to a board-recognized national approval body.~~

~~(4) For good cause, the board may adopt an order specifying, on a prospective basis, that a provider of continuing veterinary medical education authorized pursuant to paragraph (1) or (3) is no longer an acceptable provider. [New BPC § 4858.1(d)]~~

~~(c) A person renewing their license issued pursuant to Section 4846.4, or a person applying for relicensure or for reinstatement of their license to active status, shall submit proof of compliance with this section to the board certifying that the person is in compliance with this section. Any false statement submitted pursuant to this section shall be a violation subject to Section 4831. [BPC § 4846.4 already repealed; terms incorporated in "inactive" licensed in new BPC §§ 4858.1(d) and 4846.5(b).]~~

~~(d) This section shall not apply to a veterinarian's first license renewal. This section shall apply only to second and subsequent license renewals granted on or after January 1, 2002. [Incorporated in BPC 4846.5(b)]~~

~~(e) The board shall have the right to audit the records of all applicants to verify the completion of the continuing education requirement. Applicants shall maintain records of completion of required continuing education coursework for a period of four years and shall make these records available to the board for auditing purposes upon request. If the board, during this audit, questions whether any course reported by the veterinarian satisfies the continuing education requirement, the veterinarian shall provide information to the board concerning the content of the course; the name of its sponsor and cosponsor, if any; and specify the specific curricula that was of benefit to the veterinarian. [New BPC § 4858 (c)]~~

~~(f) A veterinarian desiring an inactive license or to restore an inactive license under Section 701 shall submit an application on a form provided by the board. In order to restore an inactive license to active status, the veterinarian shall have completed a minimum of 36 hours of continuing education within the last two years preceding application. The inactive license status of a veterinarian shall not deprive the board of its authority to institute or continue a disciplinary action against a licensee. [New BPC § 4858 (d)]~~

~~(g) Knowing misrepresentation of compliance with this article by a veterinarian constitutes unprofessional conduct and grounds for disciplinary action or for the issuance of a citation and the imposition of a civil penalty pursuant to Section 4883. [Revised BPC § 4883(k)]~~

~~(h) The board, in its discretion, may exempt from the continuing education requirement any veterinarian who for reasons of health, military service, or undue hardship cannot meet those requirements. Applications for waivers shall be submitted on a form provided by the board. [New BPC § 4858 (e)]~~

~~(i) The administration of this section may be funded through professional license and continuing education provider fees. The fees related to the administration of this section shall not exceed the costs of administering the corresponding provisions of this section.~~

~~(j) For those continuing education providers not listed in paragraph (1) of subdivision (b), the board or its recognized national approval agent shall establish criteria by which a provider of continuing education shall be approved. The board shall initially review and approve these criteria and may review the criteria as needed. The board or its~~

~~recognized agent shall monitor, maintain, and manage related records and data. The board may impose an application fee, not to exceed two hundred dollars (\$200) biennially, for continuing education providers not listed in paragraph (1) of subdivision (b). [Board previously approved striking]~~

~~(k) (1) Beginning January 1, 2018, a licensed veterinarian who renews their license shall complete a minimum of one credit hour of continuing education on the judicious use of medically important antimicrobial drugs every four years as part of their continuing education requirements. [New BPC § 4858.1 (e)]~~

~~(2) For purposes of this subdivision, “medically important antimicrobial drug” means an antimicrobial drug listed in Appendix A of the federal Food and Drug Administration’s Guidance for Industry #152, including critically important, highly important, and important antimicrobial drugs, as that appendix may be amended.~~

Add new Article 3.1 (commencing with Section 4858) to Chapter 11 of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code as follows:

ARTICLE 3.1. Continuing Education

4858. (a) Except for the first renewal period, all holders of veterinarian licenses and veterinary technician registrations issued under the provisions of this chapter shall continue their education after receiving a license or registration as a condition to the renewal thereof during the preceding two-year period, obtained continuing education relevant to developments in the practice of veterinary medicine. [General Renewal Provisions]

(b) A person applying for renewal of their license or registration in active status, shall certify that they are in compliance with this article, as applicable. [BPC § [4846.5\(c\)](#), CCR §§ [2085.1](#), [2086.1\(c\)](#)]

(c) The board shall have the right to audit the records of all applicants to verify the completion of the continuing education requirement. Applicants shall maintain records of completion of required continuing education coursework for a period of four years and shall make these records available to the board upon request for auditing purposes. If the board, during this audit, questions whether any course reported by the applicant satisfies the continuing education requirement, the applicant shall provide information to the board concerning the content of the course, course hours, and the name of its sponsor and cosponsor. [BPC § [4846.5\(e\)](#), CCR § [2086.1\(e\)](#)]

(d) An applicant may apply for an inactive license or to restore an inactive license under the provisions of Article 9 (commencing with Section 700) of Chapter 1. [Condensed BPC § [4846.5\(f\)](#) to cross reference [Article 9. Inactive License](#)]

(e) The board, in its discretion, may exempt from the continuing education requirement any applicant who for reasons of health, military service, or undue hardship cannot meet

those requirements. Applications for waivers shall be submitted on a form provided by the board. [BPC § 4846.5(h)]

4858.1. (a) The board shall issue renewal veterinarian licenses only to those applicants who have completed a minimum of 36 hours of continuing education in the preceding two years. [BPC § 4846.5(a)]

(b)(1) Notwithstanding any other law, continuing education hours for veterinarians shall be earned by attending courses relevant to veterinary medicine and sponsored or cosponsored by any of the following: [BPC § 4846.5(b)]

(A) The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), its accredited veterinary medical colleges, or its recognized specialty or affiliated allied groups or educational organizations. [Combines BPC § 4846.5(b)(1)(A)-(E), (G)]

(B) State veterinary medical associations or their affiliated associations or educational organizations. [Combines BPC § 4846.5(b)(1)(F), (G), (H); allows for affiliated specialty associations]

(C) Federal, state, or local government agencies. [BPC § 4846.5(b)(1)(I)]

(D) Providers accredited, approved, or recognized by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), American Medical Association (AMA), American Dental Association Continuing Education Recognition Program (ADA CERP), or American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB). [BPC § 4846.5(b)(1)(J), CCR § 2085.11(b)]

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a total of six hours or less of the required 36 hours of continuing education may be earned by doing either of the following, or a combination thereof: [BPC § 4846.5(b)(2)]

(A) Up to six hours may be earned by taking self-study courses, which may include, but are not limited to, reading journals, viewing video recordings, or listening to audio recordings. [BPC § 4846.5(b)(2)(A)]

(B) Up to four hours may be earned by providing pro bono spaying or neutering services for a public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group in compliance with the following: [Partially from BPC § 4846.5(b)(2)(B); Removed "The service shall be provided to a household with a demonstrated financial need for reduced-cost services."]

(i) The services shall be performed at a facility or mobile unit that is registered with the board pursuant to Section 4853. [Replacing "The services shall be administered at a facility that is appropriately equipped and staffed to provide those services."]

(ii) Proof of completion of continuing education pursuant to this subparagraph shall be documented by the director or administrator of the public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group, with a copy provided to the veterinarian, and include the date of performing the spaying and neutering services, the name, address, and phone number of the entity for which the spaying and neutering services were provided, and the name, address, and veterinary premises registration where the spaying and neutering services were performed. [Clarifies what constitutes proof of completion]

(3) A veterinarian who teaches a course specified in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) may receive continuing education credit for the course one time during a renewal period. [CCR § 2085.3(c)]

(4) Up to 16 hours of continuing education credit may be earned by participating as an expert in an examination preparation workshop for the national licensing examination. [CCR § 2085.3(d)]

(5) Up to 24 hours of continuing education credit may be earned for completing courses in business practice management or stress seminars. [CCR § 2085.3(e)]

(c) Providers offering continuing education courses pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) shall comply with the requirements of Section 4858.3.

(d) For good cause, the board may adopt an order specifying, on a prospective basis, that a course provider authorized pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) is no longer an acceptable provider. [BPC § 4846.5(b)(4)]

(e) (1) A licensed veterinarian who renews their license shall complete a minimum of one credit hour of continuing education on the judicious use of medically important antimicrobial drugs every four years as part of their continuing education requirements.

(2) For purposes of this subdivision, “medically important antimicrobial drug” means an antimicrobial drug listed in Appendix A of the federal Food and Drug Administration’s Guidance for Industry #152, including critically important, highly important, and important antimicrobial drugs, as that appendix may be amended.

[BPC § 4846.5(k)]

4858.2. (a) The board shall issue renewal veterinary technician registrations only to those applicants who have completed a minimum of 20 hours of continuing education in the preceding two years. [CCR § 2086.2]

(b) (1) Continuing education hours for registered veterinary technicians shall be earned by attending courses provided by those specified in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of

paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section 4858.1 or sponsored or cosponsored by one of the following: [CCR § 2086.1(b)(1)]

(A) North American Veterinary Technician Association (NAVTA) recognized veterinary technician specialty organizations. [CCR § 2086.1(b)(2)(E)]

(B) State Veterinary Technician Associations recognized by the Secretary of State in that state. [Combines CCR § 2086.1(b)(2)(A, C); Excludes CCR § 2086.1(b)(2)(B) because there no Board approved programs and CCR § 2086.1(b)(2)(D) because it is covered under 4858.1(b)(1)(A)]

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), up to four hours of the required 20 hours of continuing education may be earned by doing either of the following, or a combination thereof:

(A) Up to four hours may be earned by taking self-study courses, which may include, but are not limited to, reading journals, viewing video recordings, or listening to audio recordings. [CCR § 2086.1(b)(3)]

(B) Up to two hours may be earned by performing pro bono animal health care tasks related to spaying or neutering services for a public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group in compliance with the following:

(i) The services shall be performed under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian at a facility or mobile unit that is registered with the board pursuant to Section 4853.

(ii) Proof of completion of continuing education pursuant to this subparagraph shall be documented, with a copy provided to the registered veterinary technician, by the supervising veterinarian and include the date of performance of animal health care tasks, the name, address, and phone number of the entity for which the animal health care tasks were provided, the name and veterinarian license number of the supervising veterinarian, and the name, address, and veterinary premises registration where the animal health care tasks were performed.

(3) A registered veterinarian technician who teaches a course specified in paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) may receive continuing education credit for the course one time during a renewal period. [CCR § 2086.4(c)]

(4) Up to 16 hours of continuing education credit may be earned by participating as an expert in an examination preparation workshop for the national licensing examination. [CCR § 2086.4(d) allows for 16 hours to participate in the state examination development, which no longer exists. The state examination was deemed equivalent to the national examination.]

(5) Up to 15 hours of continuing education credit may be earned for completing courses in business practice management or stress seminars. [CCR § 2086.4(e)]

(c) Providers offering continuing education courses pursuant to paragraphs (1) or (2) of subdivision (b) shall comply with the requirements of Section 4858.3.

(d) For good cause, the board may adopt an order specifying, on a prospective basis, that a course provider authorized pursuant to paragraph (1) or (2) of subdivision (b) is no longer an acceptable provider. [BPC § 4846.5(b)(4)]

4858.3. (a) Upon a course attendee's completion of a continuing education course sponsored by a provider pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section 4858.1 or paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section 4858.2, the course provider shall issue to the course attendee a certificate of course completion containing the following information:

(1) Name of attendee;

(2) Course title;

(3) Provider name and address;

(4) Provider number assigned by and name of the entity accrediting, approving, or recognizing the course provider, if applicable;

(5) Date of course;

(6) Number of continuing education hours granted for the course; and

(7) Signature of course instructor, provider, or provider designee.

[CCR §§ 2085.8(a), 2086.7(a)]

(b) For providers that hold continuing education events with multiple and concurrent courses, the record of course completion shall specify:

(1) The information specified in paragraphs (1) through (7) of subdivision (a).

(2) The maximum number of hours that an individual attendee can earn, accompanied by a log of the actual courses attended by the attendee. The log of courses attended shall be completed by either the provider or the attendee.

[CCR §§ 2085.8(b), 2086.7(b)]

(c) The course provider shall maintain records related to continuing education courses provided for a period of four years from the date the course was completed. The records shall include:

(1) Syllabi or course outlines for each course;

(2) The time and location of each course;

(3) Course instructors' curriculum vitae or resumes;

(4) Registration rosters with the names and addresses of individuals who attend the courses;

(5) A sample of the record of course completion form provided to attendees for verifying attendance;

(6) A sample of the evaluation form completed by attendees.

[CCR §§ [2085.9](#), [2086.8](#),]

CALIFORNIA VETERINARY MEDICAL BOARD

**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL TO AMEND BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE
SECTION 4841.5 RELATING TO VETERINARY TECHNICAN REGISTRATION
EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS**

Proposed amendments approved by the Board on October 16, 2024, are indicated in underline for new text and ~~strikethrough~~ for deleted text.

Additional proposed amendments are indicated in double underline for new text and ~~double strikethrough~~ for deleted text.

Amend Section 4841.5 of Article 2.5 of Chapter of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code as follows:

4841.5. (a) To obtain registration as a registered veterinary technician, the applicant shall satisfy the following requirements:

(1) Complete and submit an application upon a form furnished by the board.

(2) Pay the applicable fees specified in Section 4905.

(3) Pursuant to Section 144, submit a full set of fingerprints for the purpose of conducting a criminal history record check and undergo a state and federal criminal offender record information search conducted through the Department of Justice, pursuant to subdivision (u) of Section 11105 of the Penal Code. The Department of Justice shall provide a state or federal response to the board pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (p) of Section 11105 of the Penal Code.

(4) Ffurnish satisfactory evidence of one of the following:

(aA) Graduation from, at minimum, a two-year curriculum in veterinary technology, in a college or other postsecondary institution accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association ~~approved by the board~~, or the equivalent thereof, as determined by the board. In the case of a private postsecondary institution, the institution shall also be approved by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education. Proof of graduation shall be ~~submitted directly to the board by~~ confirmed through electronic means or direct submission from the college, other postsecondary institution, or American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB)

(bB) Education or a combination of education and clinical practice experience, as determined by the board.

(cC) Education equivalency certified by the ~~American Association of Veterinary State Boards~~ AAVSB'S Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE) for Veterinary Technicians. The certificate of education equivalency shall be ~~submitted directly to the board by~~ confirmed through electronic means or direct submission from the American Association of Veterinary State Boards AAVSB.

(D) Graduation from a veterinary college recognized by the board. Proof of graduation shall be confirmed through electronic means or direct submission from the veterinary college or the AAVSB.

(E) Education equivalency certified by the Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG) or PAVE. The certificate of education equivalency shall be confirmed through electronic means or direct submission from ECFVG or PAVE.

(5) Pass the national licensing examination for veterinary technicians. If the applicant passed the national licensing examination over five years from the date of submitting the veterinary technician registration application, the applicant shall complete the applicable minimum continuing education requirements of ~~Section 4846.5 Article 3.1~~ (commencing with Section 4858) for the current and preceding year and satisfy one of the following:

(A) Retake and pass the national licensing examination.

(B) Submit proof, verified in accordance with subdivision (c), of active and unrestricted licensure, certification, or registration issued by another state, district, or territory of the United States or Canada to practice as a veterinary technician that is not subject to any current or pending disciplinary action, such as revocation, suspension or probation, and proof of having practiced clinical veterinary medicine for a minimum of two years and completed a minimum of 2,500 hours of clinical practice in another state, Canadian province, or United States territory within the three years immediately preceding filing an application for licensure in this state.

(i) The directed clinical practice shall have provided the applicant with knowledge, skills, and abilities in the areas of communication with clients, patient examinations, emergency procedures, laboratory procedures, diagnostic imaging, surgical assisting, anesthesia, animal nursing, nutrition, dentistry, animal behavior, and pharmacology. The supervising veterinarian(s) shall complete a check list attesting to proficiency in specific skill areas within the preceding categories.

(c) The applicant shall disclose each state, Canadian province, or United States territory in which the applicant currently holds or has ever held a license, registration, certificate, or permit to practice veterinary medicine. License verification, including any disciplinary

or enforcement history, shall be confirmed through electronic means or direct submission from each state, Canadian province, or United States territory in which the applicant has identified the applicant holds or has ever held a license to practice veterinary medicine.

(d) An application for veterinary technician registration shall be subject to denial pursuant to Sections 480 and 4883.

CALIFORNIA VETERINARY MEDICAL BOARD

**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL TO AMEND BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE
SECTIONS 4846 AND 4848.1 REGARDING VETERINARIAN LICENSE
REQUIREMENTS**

Additions are indicated in single underline.

Deletions are indicated in ~~single strikethrough~~.

Amend Sections 4846 and 4848.1 of Article 3 of Chapter 11 of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code as follows:

4846. (a) In order to obtain a license to practice veterinary medicine in California, an individual shall meet the following requirements:

(1) Graduate from a veterinary college recognized by the board or receive a certificate from the Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG) or the Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE). Proof of graduation must be directly submitted to the board by the veterinary college or from the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB). Proof of certificate must be directly submitted to the board by ECFVG or PAVE.

(2) Complete a board-approved license application.

(3) Pay the applicable fees specified in Section 4905.

(4) As directed by the board pursuant to Section 144, submit a full set of fingerprints for the purpose of conducting a criminal history record check and undergo a state and federal criminal offender record information search conducted through the Department of Justice, pursuant to subdivision (u) of Section 11105 of the Penal Code. The Department of Justice shall provide a state or federal response to the board pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (p) of Section 11105 of the Penal Code.

(5) Pass an examination consisting of the following:

(A) A licensing examination that is administered on a national basis. If the applicant passed the national licensing examination over five years from the date of submitting the California veterinarian license application, the applicant shall satisfy one of the following:

(i) Retake and pass the national licensing examination.

(ii) Submit proof of having practiced clinical veterinary medicine for a minimum of two years and completed a minimum of 2,500 hours of clinical practice in another state, Canadian province, or United States territory within the three years immediately preceding filing an application for licensure in this state.

(iii) Complete the applicable minimum continuing education requirements of Section 4846.5 Article 3.1 (commencing with Section 4858) for the current and preceding year.

(B) A veterinary law examination administered by the board concerning the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act statutes and regulations. The examination may be administered by regular mail, email, or by other electronic means. The applicant shall certify that the applicant personally completed the examination. Any false statement is a violation subject to Section 4831. Every applicant who obtains a score of at least 80 percent on the veterinary law examination shall be deemed to have passed. University of California and Western University of Health Sciences veterinary medical students who have successfully completed a board-approved course on veterinary law and ethics covering the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act shall be exempt from this subparagraph.

(b) The applicant shall disclose each state, Canadian province, or United States territory in which the applicant currently holds or has ever held a license to practice veterinary medicine. License verification, including any disciplinary or enforcement history, shall be confirmed through electronic means or direct submission from each state, Canadian province, or United States territory in which the applicant has identified the applicant holds or has ever held a license to practice veterinary medicine.

(c) A veterinarian license application shall be subject to denial pursuant to Sections 480, 4875, and 4883.

4848.1. (a) A veterinarian engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine, as defined in Section 4826, employed by the University of California and engaged in the performance of duties in connection with the School of Veterinary Medicine or employed by the Western University of Health Sciences and engaged in the performance of duties in connection with the College of Veterinary Medicine shall be issued a university license pursuant to this section or hold a license to practice veterinary medicine in this state.

(b) An individual may apply for and be issued a university license if all of the following are satisfied:

(1) The applicant is currently employed by the University of California or Western University of Health Sciences, as defined in subdivision (a).

(2) The applicant passes an examination concerning the statutes and regulations of the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act, administered by the board, pursuant to subparagraph (C) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 4848.

(3) The applicant completes and submits the application specified by the board and pays the application and the initial license fee, pursuant to Section 4905.

(c) A university license:

(1) Shall automatically cease to be valid upon termination or cessation of employment by the University of California or by the Western University of Health Sciences.

(2) Shall be subject to the license renewal provisions in Section 4900 and the payment of the renewal fee pursuant to subdivision (g) of Section 4905.

(3) Shall be subject to denial, revocation, or suspension pursuant to Sections 480, 4875, and 4883.

(4) Authorizes the holder to practice veterinary medicine only at an educational institution described in subdivision (a) and any locations formally affiliated with those institutions.

(d) An individual who holds a university license is exempt from satisfying the license renewal requirements of ~~Section 4846.5~~ Article 3.1 (commencing with Section 4858).