

hb1097F.RVT.Remarks.pdf

Uploaded by: Adam Alfano

Position: FAV

House Bill 1097

State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners – Veterinary Technicians and Veterinary Assistants

Outline: For the purpose of authorizing a veterinary assistant to perform certain tasks under the direct supervision of a veterinary practitioner or veterinary technician; authorizing a veterinary technician to perform certain procedures, including certain emergency procedures and euthanasia, under certain circumstances; requiring the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners to develop by regulation a certain alternative pathway for employed veterinary assistants to become veterinary technicians; and generally relating to the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners and veterinary technicians and veterinary assistants.

Position: Favorable

Comments:

It's 2am on a Friday night. A young Chesapeake Bay Retriever is in surgery for a splachnicectomy to save her life. While one patient is in surgery, an owner brings in her 19-year-old cat. The cat is open mouth breathing, and the owner is concerned about quality of life and doesn't want her cat to suffer anymore. The doctor on duty is performing lifesaving surgery and now must decide which patient to help.

This scenario is all too common in our veterinary ERs. If the doctor steps away from the surgery, the patient might not make it. If the doctor continues in with the surgery the other patient waits in agony, for what could be hours. No matter what, the doctor's stress and anxiety has drastically increased. Today's increased stress and anxiety is just compounded interest to a career that is full of burnout and compassion fatigue.

House Bill 1067 hopes to make at least this scenario a little better. It would allow licensed technicians in an emergency to stop a patient's suffering. A licensed technician with support of the veterinarian and owner can help make this difficult situation less stressful and bring peace to a suffering patient while ensuring the doctor stays focused on the lifesaving surgery.

I used the word patient, but these are family members. We often see these family members in the worst situations. Our goal is to be as safe and humane as possible. We want to do as much suffering as possible while simultaneously reducing the amount of suffering.

I am also in favor of the timeline of October 1, 2027, for the bill to go into full effect. Our local program at the Community College of Baltimore County and the online program Penn Foster usually takes 24 months (about 2 years) to complete. Completion of this program culminates in the VETERINARY TECHNICIAN NATIONAL EXAM. The passage of this exam results in becoming a fully licensed veterinary technician.

Thank you for your time,

Adam Alfano
Hospital Director
Pet+ER Hunt Valley

EEE HB1097 Fav 04.01.2024.pdf

Uploaded by: Marisa Francis

Position: FAV



April 1, 2024

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

RE: Favorable HB1097

On behalf of the Maryland Veterinary Medical Association (MDVMA) and its member veterinarians and veterinary technicians, we appreciate the devotion of the bill sponsor to help clarify and codify key responsibilities of the veterinary team in veterinary hospitals across the state of Maryland. We feel the provision of clarity in defining roles helps elucidate clearly individual responsibilities and may better empower veterinary providers to appropriately utilize support staff to improve efficiency of care to their patients and the clientele depending on them. Additionally, these clear definitions reinforce the responsibility of the Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners to ensure all providers are upholding an acceptable, high standard of care.

Sincerely,

Ashley Nichols, DVM
President

Matthew Weeman, DVM
Legislative Committee Chair

MARYLAND VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

PO Box 363 | Hershey, PA 17033 | Ph: (410) 305-7083 | info@MDVMA.org | MDVMA.org

HB 1097 - Favorable - Del Guyton (Senate).pdf

Uploaded by: Michele Guyton

Position: FAV

MICHELE GUYTON
Legislative District 42B
Baltimore County

Environment and Transportation
Committee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

April 2, 2024

HB 1097 – Favorable

State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners – Veterinary Technicians and Veterinary Assistants

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee,

I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 1097 that clarifies the duties of registered veterinary technicians and veterinary assistants in Maryland code.

As in so many other fields, there are shortages in the veterinary workforce. However, registered veterinary technicians are underutilized and advanced training is disincentivized due to a lack of clarity and consistency regarding their duties.

This bill will codify the duties that registered veterinary technicians and assistants can perform in Maryland and is based on recommendations and model legislation from American Veterinary Medical Association in partnership with Association of Veterinary State Boards. HB1097 defines levels of veterinary supervision necessary for different procedures.

The AVMA recognizes the importance on leveraging skills and engagement of registered veterinary technicians. This legislation will be one of the first steps to ensure that this happens in Maryland.

This bill supports our state economy by keeping better paying jobs in Maryland and helps our animals and their caregivers by allowing veterinarians to utilize registered veterinary technicians more efficiently and improve access to care.

Please support HB1097.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Delegate Michele Guyton".

Delegate Michele Guyton

HB1097 - SBVME - Support with Amendments - 3.29.20

Uploaded by: Nathaniel Boan

Position: FWA



**Maryland
Department of Agriculture**

Office of Marketing, Animal Industries and Consumer Services

Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
Kevin M. Atticks, Secretary
Steven A. Connelly, Deputy Secretary

*State Board of Veterinary
Medical Examiners*

Agriculture | *Maryland's Leading Industry*
mda.maryland.gov

The Wayne A. Cawley, Jr. Building
50 Harry S Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

410-841-5862 Baltimore/Washington
410-841-5780 Fax

Maryland Department of Agriculture

Legislative Comment

Date: March 29th, 2024

BILL NUMBER: HB 1097

SHORT TITLE: State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners - Veterinary Technicians and Veterinary Assistants

MDA POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

The State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (SBVME) supports the amended language of Section 1 in the proposed HB1097. The Board greatly appreciates the clear definitions for each degree of supervision, which is an area in need of clarification. The Board also appreciates the bill's added definition of veterinarian assistants and its description of the specific healthcare tasks that may be delegated to veterinary assistants and veterinary technicians under specified levels of supervision. The bill's sponsor has worked with all parties to fine tune these duties in a way that will elevate the profession of Registered Veterinary Technician and support hospital operations.

During the discussions, the bill's sponsor confirmed that Section 2, regarding an alternative licensing pathway, was intended to be removed during the amendment process in the House Subcommittee. Unfortunately, this amendment did not make it into the final draft of the Bill before it crossed over.

The SBVME's current regulations in COMAR 15.14.13.03B (discussed below), already offer an alternative pathway for practicing veterinary assistants who have not graduated (or are not candidates for graduation) from a veterinary technology program approved by the AVMA to become RVTs. The SBVME's existing similar pathway for veterinary assistants to become licensed is based on clinical experience. Veterinary assistants who have not graduated from an accredited Veterinary Technology program can apply to become RVTs by submitting the following:

- a. A transcript showing they have received any associate degree including the following courses:
 - i. Biology I;
 - ii. Biology II;
 - iii. Microbiology;
 - iv. Chemistry;

- v. Anatomy and Physiology I; and
- vi. Anatomy and Physiology II. (Does not require a full Veterinary Technicians/Technology Degree)
- b. Proof of 10,000 hours of work experience as a technician. (4.5-5 years working full time)
- c. A Skills Assessment completed by a Licensed veterinarian (Similar to the recommendations from a practicing veterinary practitioner)
- d. 24 hours of Veterinary Technician Continuing Education
- e. Proof of 24 hours of experience at an emergency facility.

The pathway currently described in Section 2 of HB1097 would put a significant burden on the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners staff and likely be used very infrequently in the limited amount of time that it would be in effect. The Board would need to draft new regulations creating the pathway, submit work orders through the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) for creating the alternative pathway, and go through the testing and evaluation process of the new application. This would require several months' worth of work assigned to a minimal staff with an already increasing workload, including the need to adjust the existing regulations that would be required in Section 1 of HB1097. It would also require significant effort and work orders to close this pathway in 2027 when the pathway is set to expire.

The Board also believes that despite the significant effort that would be required to implement the pathway it would impact very few constituents. The alternative pathway would require a person to have been previously licensed and/or credentialed in another jurisdiction and then move to Maryland and work under a Maryland Veterinarian's supervision as an assistant for 2 years before they could get a letter of recommendation submitted for their application to become a Registered Veterinary Technician. We believe that there would be very few individuals that would qualify for this pathway. Many states do not license individuals through alternative pathways so those individuals would already be required to have graduated from a Veterinary Technology program and may use that path. Of those that do come from states with alternative pathways, many would have the 5 years of required experience from the state they are relocating from and opt to be Registered in Maryland through the existing pathway, rather than wait two years working as an assistant to be able to get the letter of recommendation.

In summary, the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiner's hopes for a favorable report to HB 1097 with an amendment to remove Section 2 requiring a temporary alternative pathway be created.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light gray background. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "Nathaniel E. Boan".

Nathaniel Boan
Executive Director
Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

