



**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*

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## **Maryland Department of Agriculture**

### **Legislative Comment**

**Date: February 26, 2024**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1097

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

**MDA POSITION:** LETTER OF CONCERN

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SBVME supports the intent proposed in HB1097. However, the SBVME would like to share that this bill provides exemption of veterinary technicians from registration if they are “credentialed” in other jurisdictions. Without in-state registration, the SBVME will have no regulatory authority over these veterinary professionals.

Generally, the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (SBVME) supports much of the language in the proposed HB 1097. The Board greatly appreciates the new 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 specific healthcare tasks that may be delegated to veterinary assistants and veterinary technicians under specified levels of supervision.

This bill appears to remove the requirement that individuals who hold credentials in other jurisdictions register with the SBVME. Currently, only registered veterinary technicians (RVTs) may perform certain health care tasks requiring a higher level of skill and training than other hospital staff. Registration of veterinary technicians with the state is essential to the SBVME’s ability to validate credentials, remain informed regarding disciplinary action taken in other jurisdictions, investigate complaints submitted in Maryland, and take disciplinary action when necessary. Registered individuals must understand the unique rules and regulations governing practice in Maryland and cooperate with Board investigations without the need for subpoenas or other legal process (which is not true for unlicensed individuals). The Board is very concerned that HB 1097 simultaneously expands permissible health care tasks that can be performed by veterinary technicians, authorizes lesser degrees of veterinary supervision required for some tasks, and removes regulatory oversight over these professionals by not requiring registration for veterinary technicians credentialed in other jurisdictions. The Board is unable to take action against a technician’s license/registration/certification in another state. Additionally, if they are convicted of animal cruelty or significant neglect in their duties as a veterinary technician, we would be unable to revoke or suspend their license/registration because it would not exist.

With further discussion it may be possible to address the concerns of the SBVME with the Bill’s sponsor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathaniel Boan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "N" and a long, sweeping underline.

Nathaniel Boan  
Executive Director  
Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

