



**Maryland
Department of Agriculture**

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Maryland Department of Agriculture

Legislative Comment

Date: February 28, 2024

BILL NUMBER: HB 1097

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

MDA POSITION: LETTER OF INFORMATION

The State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (SBVME) is a division of the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA). The SBVME supports the intent proposed in HB1097. Generally, the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (SBVME) supports much of the language in the proposed HB 1097.

The Board recognizes that there is a lack of licensed veterinarians practicing in the State. SBVME 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.

The SBVME initially had concerns that the exemption of veterinary technicians from registration if they are "credentialed" in other jurisdictions would create a regulatory loophole. Without in-state registration, the SBVME would have no regulatory authority over these veterinary professionals.

The bill sponsor has filed amendments that address some of the Board's concerns and has indicated a desire to continue working with us to ensure that the bill will not disrupt the SBVME's ability to regulate veterinary professionals practicing in Maryland. The bill as amended will also require veterinary supervision for some tasks. For additional questions, please contact me at Nathaniel.Boan@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Nathaniel Boan
Executive Director
Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners