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By: **Chairman, Environmental Matters Committee (Departmental -  
Agriculture)**

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 1999

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Veterinary Practice Act - Practice of Veterinary Medicine**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring certain individuals to be licensed by and registered with  
4 the Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners regardless of whether the  
5 individuals have offices in the State; altering a certain definition; and generally  
6 relating to the practice of veterinary medicine and the Board of Veterinary  
7 Medical Examiners.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article - Agriculture  
10 Section 2-301(g) and 2-308  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (1985 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
14 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article - Agriculture**

16 2-301.

17 (g) The term "practice of veterinary medicine" does not include or apply to:

18 [(1) Any licensed veterinarian from any state who does not have an office  
19 in the State;

20 (2)] (1) Any person practicing veterinary medicine in the performance  
21 of civil or military official duties in the service of the United States or of the State;

22 [(3)] (2) Experimentation and scientific research of biological chemists  
23 or technicians engaged in the study and development of methods and techniques,  
24 directly or indirectly related or applicable to the problems of the practice of veterinary  
25 medicine;

1            [(4)]    (3)    A person who advises with respect to or performs acts which the  
2 Board, by rule or regulation, has prescribed as accepted management practices in  
3 connection with livestock production;

4            [(5)]    (4)    A physician licensed to practice medicine in the State or to his  
5 assistant while engaged in educational research;

6            [(6)]    (5)    A person administering to the ills and injuries of his own  
7 animals if they otherwise comply with all laws, rules and regulations relative to the  
8 use of medicines and biologics;

9            [(7)]    (6)    A farrier or a person actively engaged in the art or profession of  
10 horseshoeing as long as his actions are limited to the art of horseshoeing only;

11           [(8)]    (7)    Any nurse, attendant, technician, intern, or other employee of a  
12 licensed and registered veterinarian when administering medication or rendering  
13 auxiliary or supporting assistance under the responsible direct supervision of a  
14 licensed and registered veterinarian;

15           [(9)]    (8)    A person who floats (files) equine teeth or removes caps;

16           [(10)]   (9)    A person who scales or cleans animal teeth;

17           [(11)]   (10)   Except as otherwise provided by regulations adopted by the  
18 Board, a veterinary technician when performing the following procedures under the  
19 responsible direct supervision of a veterinary practitioner:

20                    (i)    Anesthesia induction by inhalation or intravenous injection if  
21 the veterinary practitioner is able to maintain direct visual contact of the veterinary  
22 technician's performance of the procedure;

23                    (ii)    Anesthesia induction by intramuscular injection;

24                    (iii)    Application of casts and splints;

25                    (iv)    Dental extractions; and

26                    (v)    Suturing of existing surgical skin incisions; or

27           [(12)]   (11)   A person practicing acupuncture in accordance with the  
28 principles of oriental medical theories if the person:

29                    (i)    Is licensed under Title 1A of the Health Occupations Article;

30                    (ii)    Is certified as an animal acupuncturist by the Board of  
31 Acupuncture;

32                    (iii)    Practices only acupuncture, acupressure, and moxibustion;

33                    (iv)    Cooperates and consults with a veterinary practitioner by:

- 1                                   1.       Beginning acupuncture treatment on an animal only if the  
2 animal has been seen by a veterinary practitioner within the previous 14 days;
- 3                                   2.       Adhering to the terms and conditions of treatment decided  
4 by the veterinary practitioner, including the degree of communication and  
5 collaboration between the veterinary practitioner and the person practicing  
6 acupuncture;
- 7                                   3.       Reporting to the veterinary practitioner at the end of  
8 treatment or at monthly intervals, at the discretion of the veterinary practitioner; and
- 9                                   4.       Not working on an animal for which the person has not  
10 been appropriately trained, in accordance with regulations adopted by the Board of  
11 Acupuncture; and
- 12                                   (v)      Has successfully completed a specialty training program in  
13 animal acupuncture that:
  - 14                                   1.       Is approved by the Board of Acupuncture;
  - 15                                   2.       Is offered by a school holding nationally recognized  
16 accreditation;
  - 17                                   3.       Consists of at least 135 hours; and
  - 18                                   4.       Enables the person to:
    - 19                                   A.       Design effective treatments of animals based on  
20 traditional acupuncture theories and principles, including appropriate knowledge of  
21 functional animal anatomy and physiology;
    - 22                                   B.       Handle and restrain animals to the extent appropriate in  
23 the practice of acupuncture;
    - 24                                   C.       Demonstrate sufficient knowledge of animal diseases and  
25 zoonoses that would require the immediate attention of a veterinary practitioner; and
    - 26                                   D.       Communicate effectively with a veterinary practitioner.

27 2-308.

28       (a)       In order to enforce this subtitle and aid in the prosecution of any violation,  
29 every licensee who practices veterinary medicine [and has an office] in the State  
30 shall register annually with the Board.

31       (b)       Every licensee annually shall pay the Board a registration fee set by the  
32 Board for the privilege of continuing his license.

33       SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
34 effect October 1, 1999.