

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2016 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

House Bill 980 (Delegate Gilchrist)  
Environment and Transportation

---

**State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners - Disciplinary Action Report -  
Publication on Web Site**

---

This bill requires the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (SBVME) to publish on its website a report of an action taken by the board regarding the suspension or revocation of a license if the action is subject to public inspection under the Public Information Act.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill's requirement can be handled within existing resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

---

**Analysis**

**Current Law:** SBVME may refuse, suspend, or revoke any application or license, and censure or place on probation any licensee after a hearing for specified reasons. Statute establishes a procedure that must be followed before a license is suspended or revoked, including providing the licensee notice and a hearing. SBVME must report its action in writing, stating the reasons for the action, a copy of which must be delivered or mailed to the person against whom the complaint is made.

The Public Information Act contains various provisions governing the inspection of public records, generally requiring that inspection of public records be allowed, subject to specified exceptions and limitations. Inspection of a public record that contains information about the licensing of an individual in an occupation or a profession is limited

to specified information. Among the information that is subject to public inspection is information on any orders and findings that result from formal disciplinary actions.

**Background:** SBVME is responsible for licensing and registering veterinarians, licensing and inspecting veterinary hospitals, licensing animal control facilities to administer certain drugs, and registering veterinary technicians. The board also establishes standards for the practice of veterinary medicine in the State, investigates complaints against its licensees, issues licensure verifications to other state veterinary boards, and reviews requests for approval of continuing education.

Information on SBVME disciplinary actions, including license suspensions and revocations, is currently published on the Maryland Department of Agriculture website (which contain's the board's web pages), and can be accessed from the board's web pages.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Agriculture, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 22, 2016  
mel/lgc

---

Analysis by: Scott D. Kennedy

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510