

# SENATE BILL 390

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3lr2354  
CF HB 325

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By: **Senators Lewis Young and Rosapepe, Rosapepe, and Muse**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2023

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted with floor amendments

Read second time: March 1, 2023

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Provision of Veterinary Services – ~~Routine Medical Care~~ Practice of Veterinary**  
3 **Medicine and Rabies Vaccines**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners to issue  
5 a license to an animal control facility to administer rabies vaccines; requiring the  
6 ~~State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners to establish a certain process to~~  
7 authorize a certain veterinary practitioner licensed to practice veterinary medicine  
8 in another state or jurisdiction to ~~provide routine medical care~~ become licensed to  
9 practice veterinary medicine in the State under certain circumstances; requiring the  
10 Secretary of Health to allow ~~individuals who work in or for a certain veterinary~~  
11 ~~hospital or a certain animal control facility~~ certain individuals to administer rabies  
12 vaccines under certain circumstances; and generally relating to the provision of  
13 veterinary services in the State.

14 BY repealing

15 Article – Agriculture

16 Section 2–304(e)

17 Annotated Code of Maryland

18 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

20 Article – Agriculture

21 Section 2–304(f) and 2–305

22 Annotated Code of Maryland

23 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 BY adding to  
2 Article – Agriculture  
3 Section 2–305.1  
4 Annotated Code of Maryland  
5 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
7 Article – Health – General  
8 Section 18–313  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Agriculture**

14 2–304.

15 [(e) (1) The Board may authorize the practice of a health occupation on an  
16 animal by a health care practitioner licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized under the  
17 Health Occupations Article.

18 (2) If the Board authorizes the practice of a health occupation on an animal  
19 under paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Board may:

20 (i) Impose requirements for education, training, and supervision by  
21 a veterinary practitioner; and

22 (ii) Require the registration of each health care practitioner  
23 authorized to practice a health occupation on an animal in accordance with this subsection.]

24 [(f) (E) On or before December 31 each year, the Board shall report to the  
25 Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General  
26 Assembly on the Board’s disciplinary activities for the previous fiscal year.

27 2–305.

28 (a) In this section, “animal control facility” means a humane society, as defined  
29 in § 10–601 of the Criminal Law Article, or a county or municipal designated animal  
30 shelter.

31 (b) The Board, on terms and conditions satisfactory to the Board, may issue a  
32 license to an animal control facility to allow the animal control facility to administer  
33 [drugs]:

1           (1) DRUGS needed to sedate, euthanize, or sedate and euthanize animals;  
2 AND

3           (2) RABIES VACCINES IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 18-313 OF THE  
4 HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE.

5           (c) (1) (i) The owner of an animal control facility shall apply for the license.

6                           (ii) The Board shall issue a license in the name of the owner of an  
7 animal control facility.

8                           (2) The application shall designate one individual at the facility  
9 responsible for the drugs AND RABIES VACCINES.

10           (3) The annual license fee is \$100.

11           (d) In accordance with procedures set out in § 2-311 of this subtitle, the Board  
12 may:

13                           (1) Reject an application for a license; or

14                           (2) Suspend or revoke a license for failure to comply with the Board's  
15 regulations.

16           (e) An animal control facility licensed under this section shall comply with the  
17 Board's requirements relating to employee training.

18           (f) A member of the Board, or the Board's designated inspector, may enter an  
19 animal control facility licensed under this section at any reasonable hour to enforce the  
20 Board's regulations.

21           (g) In consultation with the Maryland Department of Health, the Board shall  
22 adopt regulations necessary to carry out this section.

23 **2-305.1.**

24           (A) (1) **THE BOARD MAY AUTHORIZE THE PRACTICE OF A HEALTH**  
25 **OCCUPATION ON AN ANIMAL BY A HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER LICENSED,**  
26 **CERTIFIED, OR OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED UNDER THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS**  
27 **ARTICLE.**

28                           (2) **IF THE BOARD AUTHORIZES THE PRACTICE OF A HEALTH**  
29 **OCCUPATION ON AN ANIMAL UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE**  
30 **BOARD MAY:**

1 (I) IMPOSE REQUIREMENTS FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND  
2 SUPERVISION BY A VETERINARY PRACTITIONER; AND

3 (II) REQUIRE THE REGISTRATION OF EACH HEALTH CARE  
4 PRACTITIONER AUTHORIZED TO PRACTICE A HEALTH OCCUPATION ON AN ANIMAL  
5 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBSECTION.

6 (B) ~~(1) THE BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH AN EXPEDITED PROCESS TO~~  
7 ~~AUTHORIZE A VETERINARY PRACTITIONER LICENSED, CERTIFIED, OR OTHERWISE~~  
8 ~~AUTHORIZED WHO HOLDS A CURRENT, VALID LICENSE TO PRACTICE VETERINARY~~  
9 ~~MEDICINE IN ANOTHER STATE OR JURISDICTION TO PROVIDE ROUTINE MEDICAL~~  
10 ~~CARE IN THE STATE IF THE VETERINARY PRACTITIONER:~~

11 ~~(I) WILL PROVIDE THE SERVICES TO AN ANIMAL SHELTER, AS~~  
12 ~~DEFINED IN § 2-1701 OF THIS TITLE, LOCATED IN THE STATE; AND~~

13 ~~(II) IS NOT OTHERWISE PROHIBITED FROM PRACTICING~~  
14 ~~VETERINARY MEDICINE DUE TO A KNOWN ETHICS OR CRIMINAL VIOLATION.~~

15 ~~(2) THE ROUTINE MEDICAL CARE PROVIDED BY A VETERINARY~~  
16 ~~PRACTITIONER AUTHORIZED TO PRACTICE VETERINARY MEDICINE UNDER~~  
17 ~~PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION MAY INCLUDE:~~

18 ~~(I) SPAYING AND NEUTERING;~~

19 ~~(II) VACCINATIONS;~~

20 ~~(III) HEALTH EXAMINATIONS; AND~~

21 ~~(IV) COMPLETING CERTIFICATIONS OF HEALTH BECOME~~  
22 ~~LICENSED TO PRACTICE VETERINARY MEDICINE IN THE STATE.~~

### 23 Article – Health – General

24 18–313.

25 The Secretary of Health shall provide a statewide system:

26 (1) To control rabies;

27 (2) To grant authority to the public health veterinarian and the local health  
28 officer in matters pertaining to the disposition of animals that bite or otherwise expose  
29 rabies to an individual;

1 (3) To assist local political subdivisions regarding the laboratory testing of  
2 rabid animals;

3 (4) To treat each individual who is exposed or suspected of having been  
4 exposed to rabies; [and]

5 (5) To distribute, in accordance with the conditions set by the Secretary of  
6 Agriculture, the biological products that are needed to prevent and treat rabies; AND

7 (6) ~~TO ALLOW INDIVIDUALS WHO WORK IN OR FOR A VETERINARY~~  
8 ~~HOSPITAL, AS DEFINED IN § 2-304.1 OF THE AGRICULTURE ARTICLE~~ A VETERINARY  
9 TECHNICIAN, AS DEFINED IN § 2-301 OF THE AGRICULTURE ARTICLE, OR OTHER  
10 CLINICAL STAFF WHO WORK IN OR FOR AN ANIMAL SHELTER, AS DEFINED IN §  
11 2-1701 OF THE AGRICULTURE ARTICLE, OR AN ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITY, AS  
12 DEFINED IN § 2-305 OF THE AGRICULTURE ARTICLE, TO ADMINISTER RABIES  
13 VACCINES IF:

14 (I) ~~FOR AN INDIVIDUAL WORKING IN OR FOR A VETERINARY~~  
15 ~~HOSPITAL, THE VETERINARY HOSPITAL IS LICENSED UNDER § 2-304.1 OF THE~~  
16 ~~AGRICULTURE ARTICLE;~~

17 (H) ~~FOR AN INDIVIDUAL WORKING IN OR FOR AN ANIMAL~~  
18 ~~CONTROL FACILITY, THE~~ THE ANIMAL SHELTER OR ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITY IS  
19 LICENSED TO ADMINISTER DRUGS UNDER § 2-305 OF THE AGRICULTURE ARTICLE;  
20 AND

21 (HH) ~~THE RABIES VACCINE IS ADMINISTERED IN ACCORDANCE~~  
22 ~~WITH APPLICABLE PROTOCOLS FOR LICENSED VETERINARIANS~~

23 (II) THE ANIMAL BEING VACCINATED IS UNDER THE CUSTODY  
24 OR CONTROL OF AN ANIMAL SHELTER OR ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITY;

25 (III) THE VETERINARY PRACTITIONER WHO SIGNS THE RABIES  
26 VACCINATION CERTIFICATE HAS ENSURED THAT THE INDIVIDUAL ADMINISTERING  
27 THE RABIES VACCINE WAS APPROPRIATELY TRAINED ON ADMINISTERING RABIES  
28 VACCINES, INCLUDING PROPER STORAGE, HANDLING, ADMINISTRATION, AND  
29 MANAGEMENT OF ADVERSE REACTIONS; AND

30 (IV) THE INDIVIDUAL ADMINISTERING THE VACCINE IS  
31 IDENTIFIED ON THE RABIES VACCINATION CERTIFICATE.

32 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 1,  
33 2023, the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners shall report to the General  
34 Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, on:

1           (1) the status of establishing an expedited process for a veterinary  
2 practitioner who holds a valid, current license to practice veterinary medicine in another  
3 state or jurisdiction to become licensed to practice veterinary medicine in the State as  
4 authorized under Section 1 of this Act; and

5           (2) any financial support needed to implement the expedited process.

6           SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
7 October 1, 2023.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.