HOUSE BILL 452

M4, A3 6lr1754
CF SB 54

By: **Delegates Guyton, Spiegel, Taveras, Terrasa, and Woorman**
Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2026
Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

Committee Report: Favorable
House action: Adopted
Read second time: February 18, 2026

CHAPTER _____

AN ACT concerning

State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners – Grounds for Disciplinary Action – Restrictions

FOR the purpose of prohibiting the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners from suspending or revoking a license to practice veterinary medicine in the State, reprimanding or censuring a licensee, or placing a licensee on probation solely on the basis of the licensee discussing or recommending the use of cannabis or a product that contains cannabidiol on an animal for certain purposes; and generally relating to the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners and grounds for disciplinary action.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Agriculture
Section 2–301(a), (b), (d), (h), and (i)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2016 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Agriculture
Section 2–310
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2016 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis

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.

Section 1–101(a) and (d)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

Article – Agriculture

2–301.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) "Board" means the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners.

(d) "License" means a license to practice veterinary medicine in the State.

(h) "Veterinarian" means any person who is a graduate of a college of veterinary medicine.

(i) "Veterinary practitioner" means a licensed and registered veterinarian engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine.

2–310.

(A) **[**The**]** **SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE** Board may refuse, suspend, or revoke any application or license, and censure or place on probation any licensee after a hearing, if the veterinarian or veterinary practitioner:

(1) Is unable to practice veterinary medicine competently due to a physical or mental disability;

(2) Is convicted of a violation of any federal or State law relating to prescription drugs, a controlled dangerous substance under Title 5, Subtitle 4 of the Criminal Law Article, or a controlled substance as defined by 21 U.S.C. § 812;

(3) Is convicted of a felony, or of a crime involving moral turpitude;

(4) Is convicted of violating any provision of this subtitle, any unlawful or fraudulent practice, or any fraudulent, misleading, or deceptive representation or advertising concerning his professional qualifications or the quality of materials or drugs used by him in his professional work or in the treatment of animals;

(5) Has a final judgment entered against him in a civil malpractice case involving gross personal negligence;

(6) Obtains the license by fraud or misrepresentation, either in the application, or in passing the examination;

(7) Is guilty of employing or permitting to practice veterinary medicine any person who does not hold a license to practice veterinary medicine in the State;

(8) Fails to comply with Board rules or regulations after receiving a license;

(9) Is grossly negligent or deliberately cruel to an animal;

(10) Is determined by four members to be professionally incompetent as a veterinary practitioner;

(11) Is disciplined by a licensing authority of another state, including the suspension or revocation of a license to practice veterinary medicine, for an act that would be grounds for disciplinary action under this section;

(12) Fails to comply with animal cruelty or animal fighting reporting requirements under § 2–313.1 of this subtitle; or

(13) Willfully violates the cat declawing prohibition under § 2–313.3 of this subtitle.

(B) THE BOARD MAY NOT SUSPEND OR REVOKE A LICENSE, REPRIMAND OR CENSURE A LICENSEE, OR PLACE A LICENSEE ON PROBATION SOLELY ON THE BASIS OF THE LICENSEE DISCUSSING OR RECOMMENDING THE USE OF CANNABIS, AS DEFINED IN § 1–101 OF THE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND CANNABIS ARTICLE, OR A PRODUCT THAT CONTAINS CANNABIDIOL ON AN ANIMAL FOR POTENTIAL THERAPEUTIC EFFECT OR HEALTH SUPPLEMENTATION PURPOSES.

Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis

1–101.

(a) In this article the following words have the meanings indicated.

(d) (1) "Cannabis" means the plant Cannabis sativa L. and any part of the plant, including all derivatives, extracts, cannabinoids, isomers, acids, salts, and salts of isomers, whether growing or not, with a delta–9–tetrahydrocannabinol concentration greater than 0.3% on a dry weight basis.

(2) "Cannabis" includes cannabis products, seeds, seedlings, immature plants, and clones.

(3) "Cannabis" does not include hemp or hemp products, as defined in § 14–101 of the Agriculture Article.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2026.

Approved:

_____

Governor.

_____

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

_____

President of the Senate.