

# HOUSE BILL 1354

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By: **Delegates Hornberger, Miller, T. Morgan, Schmidt, and Ziegler**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2026

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners – Veterinarians, Veterinary**  
3 **Technicians, and Veterinary Assistants**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners to expand  
5 a certain expedited process for authorizing a certain veterinary practitioner licensed  
6 to practice veterinary medicine in another state or jurisdiction to become licensed to  
7 practice veterinary medicine in the State to include a similar expedited process for  
8 veterinary technicians and veterinary assistants; allowing the Board to provide an  
9 authorization under a certain expedited process only under certain circumstances;  
10 requiring the Board to establish a process to allow time spent as a veterinary  
11 technician to be credited toward meeting certain education or training requirements  
12 for licensure as a veterinary practitioner; requiring the Veterinary Technician  
13 Committee, subject to the Board's approval, to establish a process to allow time spent  
14 as a veterinary assistant to be credited toward meeting certain qualifications for  
15 registration as a veterinary technician; and generally relating to the State Board of  
16 Veterinary Medical Examiners.

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
18 Article – Agriculture  
19 Section 2–305.1, 2–306(a), and 2–309  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

24 **Article – Agriculture**

25 2–305.1.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

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

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

10 (b) **(1) [The] SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE**  
11 **Board shall establish an expedited process to authorize [a]:**

12 **(I) A veterinary practitioner who holds a current, valid license to**  
13 **practice veterinary medicine in another state or jurisdiction to become licensed to practice**  
14 **veterinary medicine in the State; AND**

15 **(II) A VETERINARY ASSISTANT OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN**  
16 **WHO HOLDS AN AUTHORIZATION OR A REGISTRATION TO PERFORM VETERINARY**  
17 **CARE IN ANOTHER STATE OR JURISDICTION TO PERFORM OR BECOME REGISTERED**  
18 **TO PERFORM VETERINARY CARE IN THE STATE.**

19 **(2) THE BOARD MAY PROVIDE AN AUTHORIZATION UNDER**  
20 **PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION ONLY IF THE STATE OR JURISDICTION IN**  
21 **WHICH THE APPLICANT IS LICENSED, AUTHORIZED, OR REGISTERED, AS**  
22 **APPLICABLE, OFFERS A SIMILAR RECIPROCAL PROCESS TO INDIVIDUALS LICENSED,**  
23 **AUTHORIZED, OR REGISTERED BY THE BOARD.**

24 2-306.

25 (a) (1) The Board has the exclusive power to establish and alter the standards  
26 of preliminary and professional education and training requirements of applicants for the  
27 examination for a license.

28 **(2) THE BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH A PROCESS TO ALLOW TIME SPENT**  
29 **AS A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN TO BE CREDITED TOWARD MEETING THE**  
30 **PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION OR TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE AS A**  
31 **VETERINARY PRACTITIONER.**

32 **(3)** The Board may establish an annual continuing education requirement  
33 of at least 12 hours as a condition to any license renewal.

1 2-309.

2 (a) A person may register with the Board as a veterinary technician.

3 (b) (1) There is a Veterinary Technician Committee under the Board's  
4 jurisdiction. The Committee consists of 7 members who are appointed by the Board, subject  
5 to the approval of the Secretary. The Board shall determine the qualifications and term of  
6 each member.

7 (2) Each member of the Committee may not receive compensation but is  
8 entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations as  
9 provided in the State budget.

10 (c) The Committee, subject to the Board's approval shall:

11 (1) Evaluate, examine, and determine the qualifications for applicants for  
12 registration as a veterinary technician;

13 (2) Recommend to the Board the subject, scope, form, date, time, and  
14 location for each examination;

15 (3) **ESTABLISH A PROCESS TO ALLOW TIME SPENT AS A VETERINARY**  
16 **ASSISTANT TO BE CREDITED TOWARD MEETING THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR**  
17 **REGISTRATION AS A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN;**

18 (4) Establish continuing education requirements for veterinary  
19 technicians;

20 [(4)] (5) Define the duties and responsibilities of registered veterinary  
21 technicians;

22 [(5)] (6) Recommend to the Board reasonable rules and regulations to  
23 carry out the provisions of this section; and

24 [(6)] (7) Generally assist the Board in registering and regulating  
25 veterinary technicians.

26 (d) To apply for registration, an applicant shall:

27 (1) Submit an application to the Board on the form the Board requires; and

28 (2) Pay to the Board an application fee set by the Board.

29 (e) The Board shall register any applicant who:

30 (1) Meets the requirements of this section;

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1 (2) Meets the Board's educational requirements;

2 (3) Passes a Board approved examination;

3 (4) Is of good moral character; and

4 (5) Is at least 18 years old.

5 (f) A registration is issued for a term of 3 years and expires on June 30 of the  
6 third year after the date issued unless the registration is renewed as provided in this  
7 section.

8 (g) The Board shall renew the registration of any applicant for an additional  
9 3-year term if the applicant:

10 (1) Submits a renewal application on the form that the Board requires;

11 (2) Pays to the Board a renewal fee set by the Board;

12 (3) Complies with the Board's continuing education requirements; and

13 (4) Otherwise is entitled to be registered.

14 (h) In accordance with the hearing provisions of § 2-311 of this subtitle, the Board  
15 may refuse to register an applicant, suspend or revoke the registration, or reprimand and  
16 censure, or place on probation any veterinary technician, if the veterinary technician:

17 (1) Practices veterinary medicine except as permitted under this subtitle;

18 (2) Fraudulently or deceptively obtains a registration;

19 (3) Is professionally, physically, or mentally incompetent;

20 (4) Is convicted of a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude;

21 (5) Is convicted of a violation of any federal or State law relating to narcotic  
22 drugs;

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

24 (7) Violates any provisions of this subtitle; or

25 (8) Is determined by the Board to be incompetent as a veterinary  
26 technician.

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