



26 will provide increased efficiency of and access to high-quality  
27 veterinary medical services at a reasonable cost to consumers.

28 (2) As used in this section, the term:

29 (a) "Approved program" means a master's program in  
30 veterinary clinical care, or the equivalent, in the United  
31 States or in its territories or possessions from an accredited  
32 school of veterinary medicine.

33 (b) "Supervision" means responsible supervision and  
34 control, and, except in cases of emergency, requires the easy  
35 availability or physical presence of a licensed veterinarian for  
36 consultation and direction of the actions of a veterinary  
37 professional associate. For the purposes of this paragraph, the  
38 term "easy availability" includes the ability to communicate by  
39 way of telecommunication.

40 (c) "Veterinary professional associate" means a person who  
41 has earned a master's degree from an approved program or who  
42 meets standards approved by the board and is authorized to  
43 perform veterinary medical services delegated by a supervising  
44 veterinarian.

45 (3) The title "veterinary professional associate" may be  
46 used only by an individual who has successfully completed an  
47 approved program.

48 (4) Unless otherwise prohibited by federal or state law, a  
49 veterinary professional associate may perform duties or actions,  
50 including those identified in s. 474.202 (9) and (13), in which

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51 he or she is competent and has the necessary training, current  
52 knowledge, and experience to perform, as assigned by a  
53 veterinarian licensed in this state while working under the  
54 supervision of that veterinarian. A veterinary professional  
55 associate may not do either of the following:

56 (a) Prescribe medicinal drugs or drugs as defined in s.  
57 465.003(15) or a controlled substance listed in s. 893.03.

58 (b) Except for veterinary sterilizations or veterinary  
59 dental surgeries, perform a surgical procedure.

60 (5) Each supervising veterinarian using a veterinary  
61 professional associate is liable for any acts or omissions of  
62 the veterinary professional associate acting under the  
63 veterinarian's supervision and control.

64 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.