

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the practice of veterinary
3 medicine; amending s. 474.201, F.S.; conforming
4 provisions to changes made by the act; amending s.
5 474.202, F.S.; providing definitions; amending s.
6 474.204, F.S.; revising the membership of the Board of
7 Veterinary Medicine; creating s. 474.223, F.S.;
8 requiring the board to adopt specified rules;
9 establishing application criteria for persons who
10 desire to become licensed as veterinary technicians;
11 establishing application criteria for persons who are
12 licensed as veterinary technicians; authorizing
13 licensed veterinary technicians or technologists to
14 perform specified services under the supervision of
15 licensed veterinarians; requiring supervising
16 veterinarians to determine the appropriate level of
17 supervision in the performance of such services unless
18 otherwise provided for by board rule or general law;
19 providing considerations for supervising
20 veterinarians; providing that licensed veterinarians
21 are responsible for all services performed by licensed
22 veterinary technicians or technologists; providing
23 services that only licensed veterinarians may make or
24 provide; authorizing a supervising veterinarian to
25 delegate to a licensed veterinary technician the

26 responsibility of supervising certain tasks performed
 27 by unlicensed persons; prohibiting persons from making
 28 specified representations; prohibiting veterinary
 29 assistants from identifying as veterinarian
 30 technicians or licensed veterinarian technicians
 31 unless certain conditions are met; providing a
 32 penalty; amending s. 828.30, F.S.; conforming
 33 provisions to changes made by the act; providing an
 34 effective date.

35

36 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

37

38 **Section 1. Section 474.201, Florida Statutes, is amended**
 39 **to read:**

40 474.201 Purpose.—The Legislature finds that the practice
 41 of veterinary medicine is potentially dangerous to the public
 42 health and safety if conducted by incompetent and unlicensed
 43 practitioners and veterinary technicians. The legislative
 44 purpose in enacting this chapter is to ensure that every
 45 veterinarian and licensed veterinary technician practicing in
 46 this state meet minimum requirements for safe practice. It is
 47 the legislative intent that veterinarians and licensed
 48 veterinary technicians who are not normally competent or who
 49 otherwise present a danger to the public shall be disciplined or
 50 prohibited from practicing in this state.

51 **Section 2. Subsections (6) through (12), (13), and (14) of**
52 **section 474.202, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections**
53 **(7) through (13), (15), and (19), respectively, and new**
54 **subsections (6), (14), (16), (17), and (18) are added to that**
55 **section, to read:**

56 474.202 Definitions.—As used in this chapter:

57 (6) "Licensed veterinary technician" means a person who
58 practices veterinary technology in this state and is licensed
59 under the authority of this chapter.

60 (14) "Veterinary assistant" means a person who practices
61 on a veterinary team providing medical care for animals who is
62 not a licensed veterinary technician.

63 (16) "Veterinary technician" means a person who has
64 graduated with an associate degree from a veterinary technology
65 training program accredited by the American Veterinary Medical
66 Association Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and
67 Activities (CVTEA).

68 (17) "Veterinary technologist" means a person who has
69 graduated with a bachelor's degree from a veterinary technology
70 training program accredited by the CVTEA.

71 (18) "Veterinary technology" means the science and art of
72 providing certain aspects of the medical care and treatment of
73 patients within an established veterinarian/client/patient
74 relationship by a veterinary technician or veterinary
75 technologist that is delegated and supervised by a veterinarian.

76 The term does not include the diagnosis, surgery, or the
 77 prescription of medications or appliances.

78 **Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 474.204, Florida**
 79 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

80 474.204 Board of Veterinary Medicine.—

81 (2) (a) Five members of the board shall be licensed
 82 veterinarians.

83 (b) One member of the board shall be a licensed veterinary
 84 technician who has been actively engaged in the practice of
 85 veterinary technology for at least 5 years immediately preceding
 86 the date of appointment to the board.

87 (c) One member of the board shall be a layperson ~~Two~~
 88 ~~members of the board shall be laypersons~~ who is ~~is~~ are not and has
 89 ~~have~~ never been a veterinarian or member ~~veterinarians or~~
 90 ~~members~~ of any closely related profession or occupation.

91 **Section 4. Section 474.223, Florida Statutes, is created**
 92 **to read:**

93 474.223 Licensed veterinary technicians.—

94 (1) The board shall adopt rules to regulate the profession
 95 and practice of veterinary technology.

96 (2) A person may become licensed as a veterinary
 97 technician if he or she applies to the board and:

98 (a) Submits a completed application and remits the fee set
 99 by the board.

100 (b) Has graduated from a college program of veterinary

101 technology accredited by the American Veterinary Medical
102 Association Committee on Veterinary Technicians Education and
103 Activities (CVTEA).

104 (c) Has obtained a passing score on the Veterinary
105 Technician National Exam, as determined by the American
106 Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB).

107 (d) Demonstrates knowledge of the laws and rules governing
108 the practice of veterinary technology in this state in a manner
109 designated by rules of the board.

110 (3) A person who is a certified veterinary technician in
111 good standing with the Florida Veterinary Technician Association
112 or the Florida Veterinary Medical Association may become
113 licensed as a veterinary technician if he or she:

114 (a) Submits a completed application and remits the fee set
115 by the board.

116 (b) Demonstrates knowledge of the laws and rules governing
117 the practice of veterinary technology in this state in a manner
118 designated by rules of the board.

119 (4) A veterinary technician or a veterinary technologist
120 must be licensed under this section to perform the following
121 veterinary technology services under the supervision of a
122 licensed veterinarian:

123 (a) Arterial and central venous catheterization.

124 (b) Euthanasia, under the immediate supervision of a
125 veterinarian.

- 126 (c) Intraperitoneal injections.
- 127 (d) Placement of gastric, nasoesophageal, and nasogastric
- 128 tubes.
- 129 (e) Suture or staple skin lacerations, gingival incisions,
- 130 or existing surgical incisions.
- 131 (f) Paravertebral blocks and epidurals.
- 132 (g) A complex single root extraction that is beyond a
- 133 simple digital extraction of a tooth that requires periosteal
- 134 elevation but does not require sectioning of the tooth or of the
- 135 bone.
- 136 (h) Blood or blood component collection, preparation, and
- 137 administration for transfusion or blood banking purposes.
- 138 (i) Ear flushing with powered mechanical devices creating
- 139 pressure or suction.
- 140 (j) A thoracentesis or an abdominocentesis.
- 141 (k) Application of casts, splints, and slings for the
- 142 immobilization of fractures.
- 143 (l) Placement of an epidural, an intraosseous, or a nasal
- 144 catheter.
- 145 (m) Administering rabies vaccinations, under the immediate
- 146 supervision of a veterinarian.
- 147 (n) Examinations performed within a previously established
- 148 veterinarian/client/patient relationship for routine health care
- 149 needs, followup treatment, or accepted animal husbandry on
- 150 livestock, excluding an examination required for the purpose of

151 state or federal health certificates.

152 (5) Unless otherwise provided for in this section or
153 designated by board rule, the supervising veterinarian shall
154 determine the appropriate level of supervision and protocol for
155 a service under subsection (4). All other tasks may be performed
156 by licensed or unlicensed persons at the discretion of the
157 supervising veterinarian. In determining the appropriate level
158 of supervision, the veterinarian must consider the level of
159 training and experience of the person to whom the task is
160 delegated. However, the licensed veterinarian is responsible for
161 all services performed by such persons, regardless of licensure,
162 and only a licensed veterinarian may make or provide any
163 diagnosis, perform any surgery, or prescribe any medicinal
164 drugs, as defined in s. 465.003(15), or controlled substances,
165 as defined in s. 893.02(4).

166 (6) A supervising veterinarian may, in his or her
167 discretion, delegate to a licensed veterinary technician the
168 responsibility of supervising a task performed by an unlicensed
169 person, except for a service under subsection (4).

170 (7) (a) A person may not:

171 1. Lead another person to believe that he or she is a
172 licensed veterinary technician or is engaged in the licensed
173 practice of veterinary technology unless he or she holds a
174 valid, active license under this section.

175 2. Use the name or title "licensed veterinary technician"

176 if he or she is not licensed pursuant to this section.

177 (b) A veterinary assistant may not identify himself or
178 herself as a veterinary technician or a licensed veterinary
179 technician unless he or she is a graduate of an accredited
180 veterinary technology program or licensed under this chapter, as
181 applicable.

182 (c) A person who violates this subsection commits a
183 misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s.
184 775.082 or s. 775.083.

185 **Section 5. Subsection (1) of section 828.30, Florida**
186 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

187 828.30 Rabies vaccination of dogs, cats, and ferrets.—

188 (1) (a) All dogs, cats, and ferrets 4 months of age or
189 older must be vaccinated by a licensed veterinarian, a licensed
190 veterinary technician under the immediate supervision of a
191 veterinarian, or a person authorized under paragraph (b) against
192 rabies with a vaccine that is licensed by the United States
193 Department of Agriculture for use in those species.

194 (b) Acting under the indirect supervision of a
195 veterinarian, an employee, an agent, or a contractor of a county
196 or municipal animal control authority or sheriff may vaccinate
197 against rabies dogs, cats, and ferrets that are in the custody
198 of an animal control authority or a sheriff and which will be
199 transferred, rescued, fostered, adopted, or reclaimed by the
200 owner. The supervising veterinarian assumes responsibility for

201 any person vaccinating animals at his or her direction or under
202 his or her direct or indirect supervision. As used in this
203 paragraph, the term "indirect supervision" means that the
204 supervising veterinarian is required to be available for
205 consultation through telecommunications but is not required to
206 be physically present during such consultation.

207 (c) The owner of every dog, cat, and ferret shall have the
208 animal revaccinated 12 months after the initial vaccination.
209 Thereafter, the interval between vaccinations shall conform to
210 the vaccine manufacturer's directions. The cost of vaccination
211 must be borne by the animal's owner. Evidence of circulating
212 rabies virus neutralizing antibodies may not be used as a
213 substitute for current vaccination in managing rabies exposure
214 or determining the need for booster vaccinations.

215 **Section 6.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.