

By Senator Gaetz

1-00917-26

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to veterinary licensure; amending s. 474.217, F.S.; deleting the requirement for an applicant for licensure by endorsement to have held a valid active license to practice veterinary medicine in another state, the District of Columbia, or a territory of the United States for a specified amount of time; requiring applicants to hold a valid, active license in good standing to practice veterinary medicine in another state, the District of Columbia, or a territory of the United States; reenacting s. 474.2125(1), F.S., related to temporary license to provide veterinary services, to incorporate the amendment made to s. 474.217, F.S., in a reference thereto; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 474.217, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

474.217 Licensure by endorsement.—

(1) The department shall issue a license by endorsement to any applicant who, upon applying to the department and remitting a fee set by the board, demonstrates to the board that she or he:

(a) Has demonstrated, in a manner designated by rule of the board, knowledge of the laws and rules governing the practice of veterinary medicine in this state; and

(b) 1. Holds, and has held for the 3 years immediately

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30 ~~preceding the application for licensure, a valid, active license~~
31 in good standing to practice veterinary medicine in another
32 state of the United States, the District of Columbia, or a
33 territory of the United States, provided that the applicant has
34 successfully completed a state, regional, national, or other
35 examination that is equivalent to or more stringent than the
36 examination required by the board; or

37 2. Meets the qualifications of s. 474.207(2)(b) and has
38 successfully completed a state, regional, national, or other
39 examination which is equivalent to or more stringent than the
40 examination given by the department and has passed the board's
41 clinical competency examination or another clinical competency
42 examination specified by rule of the board.

43 Section 2. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment
44 made by this act to section 474.217, Florida Statutes, in a
45 reference thereto, subsection (1) of section 474.2125, Florida
46 Statutes, is reenacted to read:

47 474.2125 Temporary license.—

48 (1) The board shall adopt rules providing for the issuance
49 of a temporary license to a licensed veterinarian of another
50 state for the purpose of enabling her or him to provide
51 veterinary medical services in this state for the animals of a
52 specific owner or, as may be needed in an emergency as defined
53 in s. 252.34(4), for the animals of multiple owners, provided
54 the applicant would qualify for licensure by endorsement under
55 s. 474.217. No temporary license shall be valid for more than 30
56 days after its issuance, and no license shall cover more than
57 the treatment of the animals of one owner except in an emergency
58 as defined in s. 252.34(4). After the expiration of 30 days, a

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59 new license is required.

60 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.