

**DRAFT ONLY
NOT APPROVED FOR
INTRODUCTION**

SENATE FILE NO.

Licensed veterinary technicians.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) French

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to veterinary technicians; providing for
2 the licensure, continuing education and supervision of
3 veterinary technicians; describing scope of practice for
4 licensed veterinary technicians as delegated by a
5 supervising veterinarian; providing for temporary licensure
6 as specified; providing for the suspension, restriction,
7 revocation or nonrenewal of licenses as specified;
8 providing for license reinstatement and reactivation;
9 providing for the imposition of fees; providing due process
10 for revocation of licenses; expanding the board of
11 veterinary medicine as specified; amending and providing
12 definitions; requiring rulemaking; providing a sunset date;
13 and providing for effective dates.

1

2 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

3

4 **Section 1.** W.S. 33-30-301 through 33-30-307 are
5 created to read:

6

7

CHAPTER 30

8

VETERINARIANS AND VETERINARY TECHNICIANS

9

10

ARTICLE 3

11

VETERINARY TECHNICIAN LICENSURE

12

13 **33-30-301. Requirements for veterinary technician**
14 **licensure; application process; sunset date.**

15

16 (a) No person shall practice as a veterinary
17 technician or represent themselves as a licensed veterinary
18 technician or "L.V.T." within the state unless the person
19 is a licensed veterinary technician or the holder of a
20 valid temporary permit issued by the board. A person
21 seeking to become a licensed veterinary technician in the
22 state shall:

23

1 (i) Submit a licensure application to the board
2 on a form provided by the board;

3

4 (ii) Submit one (1) letter of recommendation
5 from a supervising veterinarian to the board;

6

7 (iii) Submit letters of good standing to the
8 board from all jurisdictions where the applicant has held
9 or currently holds licensure or is certified to be a
10 veterinary technician;

11

12 (iv) Complete a background check that shows the
13 applicant has:

14

15 (A) No felony convictions;

16

17 (B) No criminal convictions related to
18 cruelty to animals or animal neglect;

19

20 (C) No criminal convictions of federal or
21 state law relating to controlled substances;

22

1 (D) No criminal convictions related to the
2 employment of fraud, misrepresentation or deception in
3 obtaining a veterinary technician license.

4

5 (v) Complete one (1) of the following:

6

7 (A) To be licensed through education, a
8 person shall:

9

10 (I) Graduate from an AVMA accredited
11 veterinary technician program; and

12

13 (II) Pass the VTNE.

14

15 (B) To be licensed through work experience,
16 a person shall complete one (1) of the following:

17

18 (I) Perform the duties of a veterinary
19 technician under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian
20 for a minimum of ten thousand (10,000) hours, as verified
21 by a licensed veterinarian and the board, and petition the
22 AAVSB to take the VTNE. If the person achieves a passing
23 score on the VTNE, the person shall qualify for licensure

1 provided that all other qualifications set forth by the
2 board are met and the person achieves a passing score on
3 the VTNE on or before June 30, 2029. If the person does not
4 achieve a passing score on the VTNE on or before June 30,
5 2029, the person shall be required to acquire licensure
6 under subparagraphs (A) or (C) of this paragraph; or

7
8 (II) Perform the duties of a
9 veterinary technician under the supervision of a licensed
10 veterinarian for a minimum of twenty thousand (20,000)
11 hours, as verified by a licensed veterinarian and the
12 board. A person applying for licensure under this
13 subdivision shall be exempt from taking and passing the
14 VTNE and shall qualify for licensure provided that all
15 other qualification set forth by the board are met on or
16 before June 30, 2029. If the person does not achieve a
17 minimum of twenty thousand (20,000) hours of practice under
18 this subparagraph on or before June 30, 2029, the person
19 shall be required to acquire licensure under subparagraphs
20 (A) or (C) of this paragraph.

21

22 (C) To be licensed through reciprocity, if
23 a veterinary technician is currently licensed in a another

1 state but has not completed an AVMA accredited program or
2 has not obtained a passing score on the VTNE, the
3 veterinary technician may apply to the board for reciprocal
4 licensure in the state of Wyoming by submitting:

5

6 (I) Proof of licensure in a different
7 state;

8

9 (II) A letter from the other state's
10 licensing agency showing the veterinary technician is in
11 good standing; and

12

13 (III) VTNE passing score
14 documentation, if applicable.

15

16 (b) Until June 30, 2029:

17

18 (i) If a person is currently enrolled in an AVMA
19 accredited veterinary technician program and is acting as a
20 veterinary technician under the supervision of a licensed
21 veterinarian, the person may continue their duties as a
22 veterinary technician if they are issued a temporary permit
23 from the board and complete their education in the standard

1 time for matriculation and graduation as determined by the
2 board;

3
4 (ii) If a person is completing the hours of
5 experience necessary to become licensed as a veterinary
6 technician through work experience, the person may continue
7 to act as a veterinary technician under the supervision of
8 a licensed veterinarian and accrue the hours necessary to
9 be licensed if they are issued a temporary permit by the
10 board.

11
12 **33-30-302. Scope of practice.**

13
14 A licensed veterinary technician may perform those duties
15 and responsibilities delegated to the licensed veterinary
16 technician by a supervising veterinarian. A supervising
17 veterinarian may delegate duties to the licensed veterinary
18 technician within the scope of the supervising
19 veterinarian's practice and expertise and within the skills
20 and expertise of the licensed veterinary technician. A
21 licensed veterinary technician shall not provide veterinary
22 diagnosis, prognosis, surgery or prescription of
23 medication.

1

2 **33-30-303. License and renewal applications and fees.**

3

4 (a) An application to be licensed as a veterinary
5 technician shall be accompanied by a fee in the amount
6 established and published by the board and pursuant to the
7 requirements of W.S. 33-1-201.

8

9 (b) All licenses shall expire annually on December 31
10 of each year. A licensed veterinary technician may renew a
11 license by completing and submitting a renewal application
12 form published by the board and payment of the licensure
13 renewal fee established and published by the board. On
14 December 1 of each year, the board shall send a notice to
15 each licensed veterinary technician that their license will
16 expire on December 31 and provide them with a form for
17 renewal.

18

19 (c) The licensure renewal fee shall be waived for not
20 more than three (3) years for veterinary technicians on
21 active duty with any branch of the armed services of the
22 United States or for the duration of a national emergency.

23

1 (d) The board may reactivate a lapsed license if the
2 applicant pays a reactivation fee and meets the
3 requirements for the reactivation of a license as set by
4 rule of the board.

5
6 **33-30-304. Temporary permits.**

7
8 (a) The board may issue without examination a
9 temporary permit to practice as a veterinary technician in
10 this state to a qualified applicant for licensure pending
11 examination, reciprocal licensure or work experience
12 licensure, provided that the temporary permit shall expire
13 the day after licensure has been approved by the board.

14
15 (b) The board may issue a second temporary permit if
16 circumstances warrant issuance.

17
18 **33-30-305. Continuing education requirements.**

19
20 (a) Every two (2) years each licensed veterinary
21 technician shall complete not less than twelve (12) credit
22 hours of continuing education approved by the board in
23 subjects related to practicing as a veterinary technician.

1 The education shall include not less than two (2) hours of
2 continuing education related to the responsible use of
3 controlled substances.

4
5 (b) A licensed veterinary technician shall maintain
6 and provide proof of continuing education attendance on a
7 form provided by the board. The form shall be submitted
8 with the licensed veterinary technician's renewal
9 application during the year the continuing education
10 credits are due.

11
12 (c) Credit hours for continuing education shall be
13 earned by one (1) hour credit for each hour of attendance
14 of programs approved by the board. Programs shall be
15 specifically related to practicing as a veterinary
16 technician.

17
18 **33-30-306. Disciplinary action; denial, suspension,**
19 **nonrenewal and revocation of licenses; written orders and**
20 **findings; reinstatement of license; removal of restrictions**
21 **or conditions from a license.**

1 (a) The board may take disciplinary action, suspend,
2 revoke or refuse to issue or renew a license to practice as
3 a veterinary technician or a temporary permit issued
4 pursuant to W.S. 33-30-304 for any one (1) or more of the
5 following acts or conduct:

6

7 (i) Practicing as a veterinary technician while
8 not under the supervision of a Wyoming licensed
9 veterinarian;

10

11 (ii) Incapacity or impairment that prevents a
12 licensee from practicing as a veterinary technician with
13 reasonable skill, competence and safety toward animals and
14 the public;

15

16 (iii) Unauthorized disclosure of confidential
17 information;

18

19 (iv) Being found by the board or any court of
20 competent jurisdiction to have engaged in acts of cruelty,
21 neglect or abuse of animals;

22

1 (v) Having employed fraud, misrepresentation or
2 deception in obtaining a veterinary technician license;

3

4 (vi) Having been adjudicated incompetent by a
5 court of competent jurisdiction;

6

7 (vii) Excessive use of alcohol or controlled
8 substances that are not prescribed by a medical provider;

9

10 (viii) Having been convicted of a felony;

11

12 (ix) Having been convicted of a violation of a
13 federal or state law relating to controlled substances;

14

15 (x) Having failed to answer the board, when
16 requested in writing, in regard to information relating to
17 any of the violations listed in this section.

18

19 (b) Upon a finding of ineligibility for licensure,
20 refusal to grant, suspension, restriction, refusal to renew
21 or revocation of a license under subsection (a) of this
22 section, and after a hearing held pursuant to the Wyoming

1 Administrative Procedure Act, if applicable, the board
2 shall adopt and enter a written order and findings.

3

4 (c) Any person whose license has been revoked,
5 restricted or suspended under this article, voluntarily or
6 by action of the board, may petition for reinstatement of
7 the license or for removal of any restrictions or
8 conditions placed upon the license not less than six (6)
9 months after final judicial review of a board order
10 revoking, restricting, placing conditions upon or
11 suspending the petitioner's license or six (6) months after
12 the date of the board order if there is no judicial review.

13

14 (d) The petitioner may submit a petition in writing
15 to the board that, at a minimum, sets forth and provides
16 information regarding the petitioner's fulfillment of any
17 and all conditions or compliance with all restrictions
18 imposed upon the petitioner by any prior order of the board
19 or success in correcting the conduct that formed the basis
20 for the revocation, restriction, conditions or suspension
21 of the petitioner's license.

22

1 (e) Upon receipt of a petition that contains the
2 information required by subsection (d) of this section, the
3 board shall set the matter for a hearing in accordance with
4 the provisions of the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act.
5 The burden of proof upon the petitioner at the hearing
6 shall be to demonstrate by a preponderance of the evidence
7 that the petitioner has:

8

9 (i) Corrected the conduct that formed the basis
10 for the revocation, restriction, conditions or suspension
11 of the petitioner's license and that the petitioner is able
12 to safely, skillfully and competently resume practice as a
13 licensed veterinary technician;

14

15 (ii) Fulfilled all conditions and complied with
16 all restrictions imposed upon the petitioner by any prior
17 order of the board, has otherwise corrected the conduct or
18 condition that formed the basis for the restrictions or
19 conditions placed on the petitioner's license and that the
20 petitioner is able to safely, skillfully and competently
21 practice as a licensed veterinary technician.

22

1 (f) After a hearing conducted pursuant to subsection
2 (e) of this section, the board shall issue specific
3 findings of fact, conclusions of law and a final order:
4

5 (i) Reinstating the license;
6

7 (ii) Reinstating the license subject to
8 restrictions or conditions;
9

10 (iii) Removing or modifying the restrictions or
11 conditions on the license; or
12

13 (iv) Denying reinstatement of the license or
14 removal of the restrictions or conditions on the license.
15

16 (g) Any final order issued by the board shall be
17 subject to judicial review.
18

19 (h) If the board denies a reinstatement or removal of
20 restrictions or conditions, future petitions for
21 reinstatement or removal of restrictions or conditions may
22 be submitted not less than one (1) year after the board's

1 final order denying reinstatement or removal of
2 restrictions or conditions.

3

4 (j) If the public health, safety or welfare or the
5 safety of animals requires emergency action the board may
6 temporarily suspend the license of any licensee without a
7 hearing pursuant to W.S. 16-3-113(c).

8

9 **33-30-307. Voluntary and mandatory revocation;**
10 **restriction; suspension.**

11

12 (a) A licensed veterinary technician may request in
13 writing that the board accept the voluntary relinquishment,
14 restriction or suspension of the licensee's license. The
15 board may accept the relinquished license, grant the
16 request for restriction or suspension, attach conditions to
17 the license, deny the request or waive the commencement of
18 any proceedings under this article. The board shall put in
19 writing any agreement with the licensed veterinary
20 technician. Removal of a voluntary relinquishment,
21 restriction or suspension is subject to the procedure for
22 reinstatement of a license pursuant to W.S. 33-30-306.

23

1 (b) Unless the board and the licensed veterinary
2 technician agree to the relinquishment of or imposition of
3 restrictions or conditions on a license under this section,
4 the board shall conduct a hearing to suspend, restrict,
5 refuse to renew or revoke a license as a contested case
6 under the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act.

7
8 **Section 2.** W.S. 7-19-201(a) by creating a new
9 paragraph (xxxvii), 33-30-202(a) by creating new paragraphs
10 (xii) through (xvii), 33-30-204(a), (m)(i), (iv), (ix), by
11 creating new paragraphs (xvi) and (xvii) and by creating a
12 new subsection (o) and 33-30-214 are amended to read:

13
14 **7-19-201. State or national criminal history record**
15 **information.**

16
17 (a) The following persons shall be required to submit
18 to fingerprinting in order to obtain state and national
19 criminal history record information:

20
21 (xxxvii) If required by the board of veterinary
22 medicine, persons applying to be licensed veterinarians

1 under W.S. 33-30-203 or licensed veterinary technicians
2 under W.S. 33-30-301.

3
4 **33-30-202. Definitions.**

5
6 (a) When used in this act, these words and phrases,
7 unless the context otherwise indicates, shall be defined as
8 follows:

9
10 (xii) "Supervise" or "supervision" means
11 oversight by a Wyoming licensed veterinarian who assumes
12 responsibility for the professional care given to an animal
13 by a veterinary employee, veterinary technician, student or
14 approved volunteer consistent with the rules and
15 regulations of the board of veterinary medicine;

16
17 (xiii) "Licensed veterinary technician" or
18 "L.V.T." means a person who provides professional support
19 to veterinarians, including the direct supervision of
20 unlicensed veterinary employees, subject to the scope of
21 practice requirements under W.S. 33-30-302;

22

1 (xiv) "AAVSB" means the American association of
2 veterinary state boards;

3
4 (xv) "AVMA" means the American veterinary
5 medical association;

6
7 (xvi) "VTNE" means the veterinary technician
8 national exam;

9
10 (xvii) "This act" means W.S. 33-30-101 through
11 33-30-307.

12
13 **33-30-203. License required; exceptions.**

14
15 (a) No person may practice veterinary medicine in the
16 state who is not a licensed veterinarian or the holder of a
17 valid temporary permit issued by the board. This act shall
18 not be construed to prohibit:

19
20 (ix) Any veterinary aide, veterinary technician,
21 nurse, laboratory technician, intern, or other employee of
22 a licensed veterinarian from administering medication or

1 rendering auxiliary or supporting assistance under the
2 responsible supervision of such practicing veterinarian;

4 **33-30-204. Board of veterinary medicine.**

6 (a) A Wyoming board of veterinary medicine shall be
7 appointed by the governor, by and with the consent of the
8 senate, and shall consist of ~~five (5)~~ six (6) members who
9 shall hold office for a term of six (6) years. Four (4)
10 members shall be licensed veterinarians, one (1) member
11 shall be a consumer of veterinary services and one (1)
12 member shall be a licensed veterinary technician. The state
13 veterinarian shall serve as an ex-officio member of the
14 board for the term of their position as the state
15 veterinarian. Members of the state board of veterinary
16 examiners previously appointed under this act shall
17 continue as members of the board until the expiration of
18 the term for which they were appointed. Initial
19 appointments to the board may be for less than six (6)
20 years so that the terms of not more than two (2) members
21 shall expire in any one (1) biennium. Whenever the occasion
22 arises for an appointment of a licensed veterinarian under
23 this section the Wyoming Veterinary Medical Association

1 shall nominate three (3) or more qualified persons and
2 forward the nominations to the governor at least thirty
3 (30) days prior to the convening date of the senate.
4 Vacancies due to death, resignation or removal shall be
5 filled by appointment by the governor in accordance with
6 W.S. 28-12-101 upon nominations being made as otherwise
7 provided in this section for appointment. No person shall
8 serve two (2) consecutive six (6) year terms, but a person
9 appointed for a term of fewer than six (6) years, or to
10 fill a vacancy, may ~~succeed himself~~ serve for an additional
11 term. ~~Effective July 1, 1979,~~ Appointments and terms shall
12 be made in accordance with W.S. 28-12-101 through 28-12-
13 103.

14

15 (m) The board is empowered to:

16

17 (i) Examine and determine the qualifications and
18 fitness of applicants for a license to practice veterinary
19 medicine and practice as veterinary technicians in the
20 state;

21

22 (ii) Issue, renew, deny, suspend, or revoke
23 licenses and temporary permits to practice veterinary

1 medicine or practice as a veterinary technician in the
2 state or otherwise discipline licensed veterinarians or
3 licensed veterinary technicians consistent with the
4 provisions of the act and the rules and regulations adopted
5 thereunder, provided that any denial, suspension or
6 revocation of a license shall be preceded by notice and an
7 opportunity for a hearing;

8
9 (iv) Establish and publish annually a schedule
10 of fees for licensing and registration of veterinarians and
11 veterinary technicians and the issuance of permits;

12
13 (ix) Accept any federal, state, county, city or
14 private funds, grants or appropriations which shall be used
15 to award scholarships, fellowships or assistantships to
16 qualified persons to study veterinary medicine or study to
17 be a veterinary technician in an approved school. The funds
18 shall be deposited in the state treasury and credited to a
19 separate account. The funds shall be paid out upon request
20 of the board as provided by law. The above mentioned awards
21 shall be granted under rules adopted by the board;

22

1 (xvi) Adopt rules and regulations regarding the
2 licensure, duties and supervision of veterinary
3 technicians;

4
5 (xvii) In the discretion of the board, order
6 veterinarians and veterinary technicians to complete a
7 criminal background check, including the use of the results
8 of fingerprint or other biometric data checks compliant
9 with the requirements of the federal bureau of
10 investigation.

11
12 (o) Any member of the board who is required to be a
13 licensed veterinary technician shall be qualified to serve
14 as a member of the board if they are a resident of Wyoming
15 and are licensed to practice as a veterinary technician in
16 Wyoming at the time of appointment.

17
18 **33-30-214. Penalty for violation; injunction.**

19
20 (a) Any person who violates W.S. 33-30-101 through
21 ~~33-30-215~~ 33-30-307 is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable
22 by a fine of not more than seven hundred fifty dollars
23 (\$750.00), by imprisonment for not more than six (6)

1 months, or both. Each act of such unlawful practice shall
2 constitute a distinct and separate offense.

3

4 (b) The board or any citizen of this state may bring
5 an action to enjoin any person from practicing veterinary
6 medicine or practicing as a veterinary technician without a
7 currently valid license or temporary permit. If the court
8 finds that the person is violating or is threatening to
9 violate this act, it shall enter an injunction restraining
10 him from such unlawful acts.

11

12 **Section 3.** The board of veterinary medicine shall
13 promulgate all rules necessary to implement this act.

14

15 **Section 4.**

16

17 (a) Except as provided by subsection (b) of this
18 section, this act is effective July 1, 2026.

19

20 (b) Sections 3 and 4 of this act are effective
21 immediately upon completion of all acts necessary for a
22 bill to become law as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of
23 the Wyoming Constitution.

1

2

(END)