



WYOMING LEGISLATIVE SERVICE OFFICE

Memorandum

DATE May 12, 2026

TO Members of the Joint Agriculture, State and Public Lands and Water Resources Interim Committee

FROM Anna Johnson – Staff Attorney

SUBJECT Overview of Wyoming Veterinary Practice Act Statutes

Introduction

The Joint Agriculture, State and Public Lands and Water Resources Interim Committee's interim topics include reviewing the current requirements for pregnancy testing of cattle and considering an exemption to permit non-veterinarians to perform pregnancy tests on cattle that are not being sold as breed cattle. This memorandum gives a brief overview of the Wyoming Veterinary Practice Act's (hereinafter the Act) requirements regarding pregnancy testing of cattle.

Definitions

The Act provides a number of definitions, many of which are pertinent to pregnancy testing of cattle. The Act defines the practice of veterinary medicine, in part, as including the *diagnosis*, prognosis or treatment of a physical condition of any animal, which would include pregnancy testing, and "to physiologically examine or correct sterility or infertility, or to render advice or recommendation with regard to any of the above for any animal for a fee or other compensation."¹ Veterinarian is defined as "a person who has received a doctor's degree in veterinary medicine from an accredited college of veterinary medicine[.]"² Finally, licensed veterinarian is defined as "a person who is validly and currently licensed to practice veterinary medicine in [Wyoming]."³

Requirements of the Act

The Act dictates that no one but a licensed veterinarian may practice veterinary medicine within Wyoming.⁴ There are a few exceptions to this rule, some of which are pertinent to pregnancy testing of cattle. For instance, "[t]he owner of an animal, the owner's employees or any livestock operator and such operator's employees with whom the owner exchanges work and assistance in connection with animals" may care for and treat "any animal belonging to such owner, in any manner desired by said owner[.]"⁵ Pregnancy testing by a non-veterinarian, as a standalone service, does not explicitly appear to fit under this exception, and it

¹ W.S. 33-30-202(a)(iii)(A) and (B).

² W.S. 33-30-202(a)(iv).

³ W.S. 33-30-202(a)(v).

⁴ W.S. 33-30-203(a).

⁵ W.S. 33-30-203(a)(v).

is also unclear whether the non-veterinarian doing the test could be compensated for the service. Such determinations would most likely be based on individual circumstances. Other notable exceptions include persons "approved by the board [of veterinary medicine to perform] artificial insemination of animals"⁶ and persons "approved by the board [to perform] embryo transplants upon animals[.]"⁷

A veterinarian may be disciplined by the Board of Veterinary Medicine for, among other things, having "professional association with or [employing] any person practicing veterinary medicine unlawfully[.]"⁸ Furthermore, "Any person who violates [the Act] is guilty of a misdemeanor"⁹ and "[t]he board or any citizen of this state may bring an action to enjoin any person from practicing veterinary medicine without a currently valid license or temporary permit."¹⁰

Please contact me if you have any questions or need further information.

⁶ W.S. 33-30-203(a)(viii).

⁷ W.S. 33-30-203(a)(xi).

⁸ W.S. 33-3-212(a)(viii).

⁹ W.S. 33-30-214(a).

¹⁰ W.S. 33-30-214(b).