

JAN 20 2012

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR VETERINARIANS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the profession of
2 veterinary medicine has changed dramatically in the last ten
3 years. Veterinary medicine is the only profession that
4 routinely operates at the intersection of human and animal
5 health. Veterinarians are challenged with the continuous
6 development of new drugs; new drug therapies; new treatment and
7 modalities for animals, including the use of herbs and
8 alternative drugs; and emerging diseases that affect both
9 animals and humans, such as avian flu. Consumers depend on
10 veterinarians to be fully informed and competent about the
11 proper use of drugs and treatment for their animals. Currently,
12 forty-seven states require continuing education for
13 veterinarians.

14 The purpose of this Act is to require veterinarians in the
15 State of Hawaii to complete a minimum of twenty credit hours of
16 continuing education courses during each licensing biennium.



SECTION 2. Section 471-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding two new definitions to be appropriately inserted and to read as follows:

"Continuing education courses" means courses approved by the board of veterinary examiners or the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association to meet the requirements of this chapter or courses approved by the board that serve to meet the requirements of the American Association of Veterinary State Boards' Registry of Approved Continuing Education, or other board-approved organizations.

"Credit hour" means, except as otherwise provided, the value assigned to fifty minutes of instruction."

SECTION 3. Section 471-9, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"§471-9 Licenses. (a) Except as otherwise provided in this ~~[section,]~~ chapter, the board of veterinary examiners shall issue a license ~~[upon payment of a license fee]~~ to engage in the practice of veterinary medicine to all persons meeting the requirements of this chapter~~[-]~~ upon payment of a license fee.

(b) All licenses issued by the board shall expire on June 30 of each even-numbered year next following the date of issuance.



1 (c) Every veterinarian shall pay a biennial renewal fee in
2 each even-numbered year~~[-]~~ and, by the renewal for the licensing
3 biennium commencing on July 1, 2014, shall complete at least
4 twenty credit hours of continuing education. For each biennial
5 renewal thereafter, each veterinarian shall complete the
6 continuing education requirement within the two-year period
7 preceding the renewal date, regardless of the licensee's initial
8 date of licensure; provided that a licensee who has graduated
9 from an accredited veterinary school within one year of the
10 licensee's first license renewal shall not be subject to the
11 continuing education requirement for the first license renewal.
12 The payment of the renewal fee and completion of the continuing
13 education requirement shall entitle the veterinarian to renewal
14 of the license.

15 (d) Each licensee shall be responsible for maintaining the
16 licensee's continuing education records. At the time of
17 renewal, each licensee shall certify under oath that the
18 licensee has complied with the continuing education requirement
19 of this section. The board may require a licensee to submit, in
20 addition to the certification, evidence satisfactory to the
21 board that demonstrates compliance with the continuing education
22 requirement of this section.



1 (e) The board may conduct random audits of licensees to
2 determine compliance with the continuing education requirement.
3 The board shall provide written notice of an audit to a licensee
4 randomly selected for audit. Within sixty days of notification,
5 the licensee shall provide the board with documentation
6 verifying compliance with the continuing education requirement
7 established by this section.

8 [~~(d)~~] (f) Any holder of an expired license may be
9 [~~reinstated~~] restored as a veterinarian upon payment of the
10 renewal fee and a penalty fee~~[-]~~ and proof of compliance with
11 the continuing education requirement for the prior licensing
12 biennium.

13 (g) A licensee who has not met the continuing education
14 requirements established by this section may renew a license
15 under this chapter; provided that the board shall suspend the
16 license until the licensee presents to the board documentation
17 verifying compliance with the continuing education requirement
18 established by this section.

19 [~~(e)~~] (h) Notwithstanding any other provision, no license
20 shall expire while the [~~holder thereof~~] licensee is serving on
21 active duty in the armed forces of the United States during any



1 emergency declared by the President or Congress and six months
2 after the termination thereof."

3 SECTION 4. Section 471-10, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

5 "(b) In addition to any other actions authorized by law,
6 the board may revoke or suspend the license of any veterinarian,
7 ~~[or]~~ fine ~~[the]~~ a licensee, or both, for any cause authorized by
8 law, including but not limited to the following:

- 9 (1) Professional misconduct, gross negligence, or manifest
10 incapacity;
- 11 (2) Violation of this chapter or the rules adopted
12 pursuant thereto or any other law which applies to the
13 licensee as a practicing veterinarian;
- 14 (3) Making any false representations or promises through
15 advertising or otherwise;
- 16 (4) Habitual intemperance in the use of alcoholic
17 beverages or addiction to the use of narcotic or
18 dangerous substances;
- 19 (5) Mental incompetence;
- 20 (6) Any fraudulent, dishonest, or deceitful act in
21 connection with the practice of veterinary medicine;



- 1 (7) Making a false statement [~~in~~] on any document
2 submitted or required to be filed by this chapter[~~7~~],
3 including a false certification of compliance with the
4 continuing education requirement;
- 5 (8) Revocation, suspension, or other disciplinary action
6 by another state of a license or certificate for
7 reasons as provided in this section;
- 8 (9) Conviction of or plea of nolo contendere to a penal
9 offense substantially related to the qualifications,
10 functions, or duties of a veterinarian,
11 notwithstanding any statutory provision to the
12 contrary;
- 13 (10) Violation of chapter 329, the uniform controlled
14 substances act, or any rule adopted pursuant thereto;
- 15 (11) Failure to report any disciplinary action taken
16 against [~~a~~] the licensee in another jurisdiction
17 within thirty days after the disciplinary action
18 becomes final; or
- 19 (12) Conduct or practice contrary to the recognized
20 principles of medical ethics of the veterinary
21 profession as adopted by the Hawaii Veterinary Medical



1 Association and the American Veterinary Medical
2 Association."

3 SECTION 5. The board of veterinary medicine shall provide
4 written notification of the contents of this Act to all persons
5 licensed under chapter 471, Hawaii Revised Statutes, within
6 ninety days of the effective date of this Act.

7 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
8 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval
10 and shall apply to license renewals for the licensing biennium
11 beginning on July 1, 2014.

12
INTRODUCED BY:

Pohai Chan (br)



Report Title:

Veterinarians; Continuing Education

Description:

Establishes veterinary license renewal requirement of twenty continuing education credit hours, beginning with renewals for the licensing biennium commencing on July 1, 2014.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

