A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VETERINARY TECHNICIANS.

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

- 1 SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to improve the level 2 of care of animals in the State by establishing registration 3 requirements for veterinary technicians. 4 SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by 5 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read 6 as follows: 7 "CHAPTER VETERINARY TECHNICIANS -1 **Definitions.** As used in this chapter: 10 "Board" means the board of veterinary examiners, as defined in section 471-1. 11
- "Veterinary technician" means an individual, whether 12 registered under this chapter, who is formally trained for the 13 specific purpose of assisting a licensed veterinarian in the 14 15 performance of professional or technical services in the field 16 of veterinary medicine or who represents oneself to be a
- 17 veterinary technician.



1	S	-2 Registration required; exceptions. (a) No person	
2	shall pra	ctice or offer to practice as a veterinary technician,	
3	either gr	atuitously or for pay, or shall announce or advertise	
4	either pu	blicly or privately as prepared or qualified to so	
5	practice, or affix any letters to the person's name with the		
6	intent thereby to imply that the person is a registered		
7	veterinary technician, without having a valid unrevoked		
8	certificate of registration from the board of veterinary		
9	examiners		
10	(b)	Nothing in this chapter shall prevent or prohibit:	
11	(1)	Any person from treating any animal without	
12		expectation or receipt of compensation in case of	
13		emergency;	
14	(2)	The owner of any animal or animals and the owner's	
15		full-time, regular employees from caring for and	
16		treating any animal belonging to the owner;	
17	(3)	Students in an educational program for veterinary	
18		technicians from participating in activities conducted	
19		as part of the educational program under the	
20		supervision and guidance of a licensed veterinarian or	
21		registered veterinary technician;	

1	(4)	Individuals who are employed by a licensed
2		veterinarian and are trained to do only a very limited
3		number of diagnostic or therapeutic procedures from
4		carrying out those procedures under the direction of
5		the licensed veterinarian;
6	(5)	Any person from practicing as a veterinary technician
7		in the employ of the United States government while
8		engaged in the performance of the person's official
9		duties;
10	(6)	Any person licensed to practice as a veterinarian in
11		any state, or any certified scientist or professional
12		in animal care, from practicing in this State when in
13		actual consultation with or under the sponsorship of a
14		licensed veterinarian of this State; provided that the
15		person licensed from another state, or the certified
16		scientist or professional in animal care, shall not
17		open an office, appoint a place to meet patients, or
18		receive calls within the limits of the State; or
19	(7)	Any farmer from giving to another farmer the
20		assistance customarily given in the ordinary practice

of animal husbandry.

21

- 1 The board shall establish educational and training
- 2 standards with which a person applying for a certificate of
- 3 registration as a veterinary technician shall comply.
- 4 -3 Power to investigate. The board or any member
- 5 thereof, or any person designated by the board for the purpose,
- 6 may investigate any violation or suspected violation of this
- 7 chapter. Each member of the board may administer oaths in
- 8 connection with any such investigation.
- 9 S **Registration.** (a) Except as otherwise provided in
- this chapter or in rules adopted by the board, the board shall 10
- issue a certificate of registration to engage in the practice as 11
- a veterinary technician to all applicants who meet the 12
- 13 requirements of this chapter and any rules adopted by the board,
- 14 and who pay the required registration fee.
- 15 (b) All certificates of registration issued by the board
- 16 shall expire on June 30 of each even-numbered year next
- **17** following the date of issuance. Failure to renew the
- 18 certificate of registration on or before June 30 of each even-
- 19 numbered year shall automatically constitute a forfeiture of the
- 20 certificate of registration; provided that the certificate of
- 21 registration shall be restored upon compliance with rules
- 22 adopted by the board.

SB HMS 2013-4103-1



- 1 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary,
- 2 no registration shall expire while the registered individual is
- 3 serving on active duty in the armed forces of the United States
- 4 during any emergency declared by the President or Congress and
- 5 six months after the termination thereof.
- 6 § -5 Refusal to grant, revocation, and suspension of a
- 7 registration. (a) In addition to any other actions authorized
- 8 by law, the board may refuse to grant, renew, reinstate or
- 9 restore a registration for any cause that would be ground for
- 10 revocation of a certificate registration under the law or rules
- 11 adopted by the board.
- 12 (b) In addition to any other actions authorized by law,
- 13 the board may revoke or suspend the certificate of registration
- 14 of any veterinary technician, fine a registered individual, or
- 15 both, for any cause authorized by law or rules adopted by the
- 16 board.
- 17 **S** -6 **Hearings.** In every case where it is proposed to
- 18 refuse to grant, renew, reinstate, or restore a certificate of
- 19 registration or to revoke or suspend the certificate of
- 20 registration for cause, the person concerned shall be given
- 21 notice and opportunity for hearing in conformity with chapter
- **22** 91.

SB HMS 2013-4103-1

- 1 In all proceedings before it, the board and each member
- 2 thereof shall have the same powers respecting administering
- 3 oaths, compelling the attendance of witnesses and the production
- 4 of documentary evidence, and examining witnesses as are
- 5 possessed by circuit courts. In case of disobedience by any
- 6 person of any order or subpoena of the board or any member
- 7 thereof or the refusal of any witness to testify to any matter
- 8 regarding which the witness may lawfully be questioned, any
- 9 circuit judge, on application by the board or any member
- 10 thereof, shall compel obedience as in the case of disobedience
- 11 of the requirements of a subpoena issued by a circuit court, or
- 12 a refusal to testify therein.
- 13 § -7 Violations; penalties. Any person who violates or
- 14 fails to comply with any provision of this chapter shall be
- 15 fined not more than \$1,000 for each violation.
- 16 § -8 Rules and regulations. The board of veterinary
- 17 examiners shall adopt, amend, or repeal rules pursuant to
- 18 chapter 91 to establish the requirements for the registration of
- 19 veterinary technicians, including basic educational and
- 20 examination requirements, and to otherwise effectuate the
- 21 purposes of this chapter."

SB HMS 2013-4103-1

- 1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014;
- 2 provided that section 2 shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

3

INTRODUCED BY:

Report Title:

Veterinary Technicians; Registration

Description:

Establishes requirements for the practice and registration of veterinary technicians. Requires the Board of Veterinary Examiners to adopt rules. Effective July 1, 2014.

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