

1320 Research Park Drive
Manhattan, Kansas 66502
(785) 564-6700



900 SW Jackson, Room 456
Topeka, Kansas 66612
(785) 296-3556

Jackie McClaskey, Secretary

Governor Sam Brownback

**Testimony on SB 189 to
The Senate Agriculture Committee
By Wendee Grady, Staff Attorney
Kansas Department of Agriculture
February 17, 2015**

Good morning, Chairman Love, and members of the committee. I am Wendee Grady, a staff attorney for the Kansas Department of Agriculture, here to testify today in support of SB 189. This bill, as introduced, would create a licensing requirement for those practicing veterinary medicine on client-owned animals at a school of veterinary medicine within the state. This group of persons engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine is currently exempt from licensing requirements and therefore outside of the purview of the Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners.

SB189 proposes the creation of an institutional license. Persons practicing veterinary medicine on client-owned animals at a school of veterinary medicine within the state would have the option to obtain a full veterinary license, or an institutional license. Some of the proposed differences between the two licenses are:

- 1) there would be no continuing education requirement for institutional licensees;
- 2) schools of veterinary medicine could assist in the application and renewal process, which is anticipated to result in lower administrative costs, and therefore lower licensing fees for institutional licensees;
- 3) an institutional license would only authorize a person to practice veterinary medicine within the scope of their employment at a school of veterinary medicine. Persons desiring to also practice outside of a school of veterinary medicine would still need to obtain a full veterinary license.

The bill proposes a licensing exemption for persons who will be practicing veterinary medicine at a school of veterinary medicine only on a temporary basis (no more than 30 days within any given calendar year). These persons will not be required to take the veterinary legal practice examination or obtain a license, but would have to be otherwise eligible and meet the qualifications to become a licensed veterinarian or receive an institutional licensee.

While violations of the veterinary practice act by persons practicing veterinary medicine at a school of veterinary medicine may be few and far between, it is important to give authority to the Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners to investigate those matters and to take any appropriate disciplinary action against persons who have violated the act. Finally, allowing the Board of Veterinary Examiners to regulate the practice of veterinary medicine at a school of veterinary medicine will help meet the expectations of clients who take their animals for care at a school of veterinary medicine.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.