

House Ag Committee hearing, Thursday, February 17, 2022, 3:30 pm HB 2532

Testimony in support of HB 2532. I am Dr. Mark Olson, the new Executive Director for the Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners, and I appreciate the opportunity to share with this House Ag Committee testimony in support of HB 2532.

The mission of the Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners is to promote health, safety, and welfare relative to the practice of veterinary medicine which is indeed a privilege granted to persons possessing the appropriate personal and professional qualifications specified in the Kansas Veterinary Practice Act.

House Bill No. 2532 an Act concerning the state board of veterinary examiners

- Relating to **licensed veterinarians** and **registered veterinary technicians**
- In this bill, the **definitions section has been alphabetized and updated**
- This bill authorizes the licensure, registration or **discipline** involving all types of veterinary licenses and **veterinary technician registrations**
- A veterinary technician registration may be renewed upon payment of the renewal fee and satisfactory evidence that the individual has **participated in a minimum of 8 hours of continuing education each year**
- Authorizes a fee for **actual costs** related to the investigation or adjudication of, or enforcement against, any person for a violation of statutes, rules and regulations or orders enforceable by the board
- Upon reasonable suspicion that the ability of an applicant for licensure or registration is **impaired** by reason of physical or mental illness or condition, or use of alcohol, drugs or controlled substances, the board shall have the authority to compel the person to submit to a mental or physical examination, substance abuse evaluation or drug screen, or any combination thereof, by such persons as the board may designate either in the course of an investigation or a disciplinary proceeding.
- All investigative information involving impairment cases will **remain confidential** and shall not be subject to discovery, subpoena, or other means of legal compulsion for their release to any person or entity and shall not be admissible in any civil or administrative action other than a disciplinary proceeding by the board.
- Remove the cite and fine language in the **unlicensed** practice section and will handle all unlicensed practice of veterinary medicine cases by the most current legal procedures.

Since the introduction of HB 2532, more discussions have been held with the Kansas Veterinary Medical Association, the Kansas Veterinary Technicians Association and after these discussions the Board of Veterinary Examiners voted in favor of a friendly balloon amendment to this bill which I would like to introduce to the House Ag Committee today:

- The “Practice of veterinary medicine” includes the prescribing, dispensing or the administration of...” in the definitions section on page 2(k)(1) in Section 1.

- Increasing the continuing education clock hours from 8 to 10 per year for registered veterinary technicians. Page 10(b) Section 5
- Add “the practice of veterinary medicine” to the end of this sentence. Section 6 page 13(5)(p)
- Add “after written notice is reasonably attempted to be given to the owner or the owner’s agent at such person’s last known address”. Strike out the part of the same sentence “by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested. Section 8 page 14(a)
- Strike out all locations of the definition and use of “probable cause committee” Section 1 and Section 11, and replace with “the board” in Section 11.
- Strike out, “on a companion animal” in Section 7, page 14(e) and (f)
- Strike out, “operating and managing veterinarian” in Section 9) and replace it with the original language in the practice act.

The Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners, after discussions with the KVMA and the KVTA recommends support for HB 2532 with the addition of this friendly balloon amendment and would ask for your support of this amended HB2532.