

HB 869 -- VETERINARIANS

SPONSOR: Townley

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 11 to 1.

This bill changes the laws regarding the practice of veterinary medicine. The bill:

(1) Allows for the practice of veterinary medicine across state lines, as long as the person practicing across state lines is licensed to practice veterinary medicine in another state and the practice is limited to the rendering of documented opinions concerning diagnosis and treatment through electronic means. When receiving consultations across state lines, the ultimate authority and responsibility for the diagnosis and treatment of the patient remains with the primary care veterinarian licensed in this state;

(2) Expands the criteria for application for provisional licenses to practice veterinary medicine to include those applying by grade transfer, reciprocity, or examination. Provisional licenses will not be issued to those applying for faculty licenses;

(3) Creates an inactive license status. Non-practicing veterinarians and veterinary technicians may make application to the Missouri Veterinary Medical Board requesting that their license be placed on inactive status. Applicants must file an affirmation with the board stating they will not engage in the practice of veterinary medicine. Any person holding an inactive license who wishes to have their license brought back to active status must submit an application for renewal, pay the required fees, and provide evidence of completion of required continuing education requirements;

(4) Requires all persons with expired licenses who are still eligible for renewal to provide evidence of completion of all continuing education requirements when making application for license renewal; and

(5) Allows veterinary technicians licensed in other states to make application for certification in Missouri by grade score transfer.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill updates the veterinary

practice act by expanding licensing provisions. It gives the Missouri Veterinary Medical Board the authority to regulate the profession in the same manner as other medical professions.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Townley; and Missouri Veterinary Medical Board.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Bob Dominique, Legislative Analyst