
**Agriculture & Natural Resources
Committee**

HB 1331

Brief Description: Changing veterinary technician credentialing to licensure.

Sponsors: Representatives Haigh, Kretz, Wallace, Walsh, Cody, Strow, Hinkle, Pettigrew, Priest and Dunn.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Changes registration of veterinary technicians to licensing.
- Adds a member representing licensed veterinary technicians to the state Board of Veterinary Medicine.
- Authorizes the Board to adopt rules including standards for experience, performance and continuing education.

Hearing Date: 2/14/07

Staff: Meg Van Schoorl (786-7105).

Background:

A veterinary technician is a person who has (1) successfully completed an examination administered by the state Veterinary Board of Governors and (2) either completed a post high school course approved by the Board in the care and treatment of animals, or had five years of practical experience acceptable to the board with a licensed veterinarian. Veterinary technicians are registered under the Veterinary Medicine statutes. The Veterinary Board of Governors has six members, five of whom are licensed veterinarians and one is a lay member. All are appointed by the Governor.

The HB 1511, introduced during the 2005 legislative session, would have made several changes in the training and credentialing of veterinary technicians, including removing the option of obtaining registration based on five years experience. The Legislature requested that the

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Department of Health conduct a "Sunrise Review" on HB 1511 in accordance with chapter 18.120 RCW, which states that a health care profession should be regulated only under certain circumstances. If greater regulation is found necessary, the Legislature may consider five categories, and should select the one that is least restrictive and most consistent with the public interest: stricter civil actions and criminal prosecutions, inspection requirements, registration, certification, and licensure. After undertaking the Sunset Review on HB 1511, the Department of Health issued a report in January 2006 providing its recommendations.

Summary of Bill:

The state Veterinary Board of Governors (Board) must issue a veterinary technician license to a person who has passed a Board-administered examination and has either (1) completed a post-high school, Board-approved course in animal care and treatment, or (2) had five years of practical experience, acceptable to the Board, with a licensed veterinarian.

The Board is given rule-making authority to identify experiential requirements for the prospective technician following the 5 year option as well as the requirements for the supervising veterinarian's attestation of completion of training and practical experience. The Board is authorized to adopt rules including standards for performance and minimum continuing education standards.

The Board is increased from six to seven members, one of whom shall be a licensed, employed veterinary technician who is a state resident and U.S. citizen. This member will also be appointed by the Governor but will not vote in Board decisions involving discipline of a veterinarian involving standard of care.

Several existing statutory references to registration are amended to refer to licensing.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.