

First Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

REVISED

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted  
on Second Reading in the Second House*

LLS NO. 25-0073.01 Christopher McMichael x4775

HOUSE BILL 25-1285

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

**McCormick and Johnson**, Bacon, English, Garcia, Hamrick, Lindstedt, Mabrey, Sirota, Smith

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE VETERINARY WORKFORCE, AND, IN CONNECTION  
102 THEREWITH, ESTABLISHING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PRACTICE  
103 OF VETERINARY MEDICINE BY VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL  
104 ASSOCIATES.

Bill Summary

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

The bill establishes and modifies requirements related to the practice of veterinary medicine by a veterinary professional associate (VPA). In November 2024, voters in Colorado approved Proposition 129,

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.  
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

SENATE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
April 8, 2025

HOUSE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
March 26, 2025

HOUSE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
March 25, 2025

which established the role of VPAs and permits VPAs, starting on January 1, 2026, to practice veterinary medicine under certain circumstances. The bill specifies how an individual can register as a VPA in Colorado and clarifies the circumstances under which a VPA can practice veterinary medicine.

The bill specifies that a VPA is only permitted to practice veterinary medicine under the immediate or direct supervision of a supervising licensed veterinarian. Telesupervision of a VPA practicing veterinary medicine is not permitted under the bill.

The bill requires the supervising licensed veterinarian and the VPA to file a signed written agreement with the state board of veterinary medicine (board) that states the veterinarian is responsible for the practice of veterinary medicine by the VPA. Once that agreement has been filed with the board, the supervising licensed veterinarian may delegate aspects of the practice of veterinary medicine to the VPA if:

- The aspects of the practice are within the training, experience, and competency of the VPA;
- The practice of veterinary medicine delegated to the VPA is permitted under requirements of state and federal law and board rules;
- The supervising licensed veterinarian and VPA are located at the same veterinary premises while practicing veterinary medicine; and
- The licensed veterinarian or the VPA has obtained informed consent from the client.

The bill instructs the board to adopt rules regarding the practice of veterinary medicine by VPAs, including rules that:

- Require a VPA to practice veterinary medicine only if under immediate or direct supervision;
- Permit a VPA to perform veterinary tasks that do not constitute the practice of veterinary medicine under indirect supervision if deemed appropriate by the supervising licensed veterinarian;
- Approve a nationally recognized VPA credentialing organization that requires a VPA to complete an accredited university program for VPAs, pass a VPA examination, and complete continuing education requirements;
- Provide guidance to supervising licensed veterinarians in their delegation of tasks to and supervision of VPAs;
- Determine a scope of practice for VPAs;
- Establish a registration fee for the registration of VPAs;
- Determine continuing education requirements for VPAs; and
- Establish an equivalent registration pathway for a veterinary technician specialist, which pathway considers

a veterinary technician specialist's experience, education, and training as a substitute for the education requirements needed to register as a VPA.

The bill clarifies that a veterinarian-client-patient relationship must be established and maintained only by a licensed veterinarian.

The bill requires a licensed veterinarian to comply with certain restrictions when prescribing opioids and benzodiazepines.

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1     *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2             **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
3     finds and declares that:

4             (a) Proposition 129 was passed by voters in November 2024 and  
5     established the role of a veterinary professional associate in Colorado;

6             (b) As a national leader and the first state to establish the role of  
7     a veterinary professional associate, Colorado must set a strong foundation  
8     and put proper guidelines in place to provide adequate structure for and  
9     oversight of veterinary professional associates;

10            (c) By establishing clear guidelines for the department of  
11     regulatory agencies and the state board of veterinary medicine that will  
12     provide oversight and regulate veterinary professional associates,  
13     Colorado will ensure the protection of animals, patients, and owners in  
14     Colorado while also protecting public health and shaping the success of  
15     the new veterinary professional associate position; and

16            (d) Furthermore, clear guidelines and regulations related to the  
17     new veterinary professional associate position will ensure that the will of  
18     the voters is implemented and that Colorado's animals receive quality  
19     veterinary care.

20            **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-104, **amend**  
21     **as they will become effective January 1, 2026, (21.5) and (21.7); and**  
22     **add (21.9) as follows:**

1           **12-315-104. Definitions.** As used in this article 315, unless the  
2 context otherwise requires:

3           (21.5) "Veterinary professional" means a veterinarian licensed  
4 pursuant to this part 1, a veterinary professional associate registered  
5 pursuant TO part 2 of this article 315, or a veterinary technician or  
6 veterinary technician specialist registered pursuant to part 2 of this article  
7 315.

8           (21.7) "Veterinary professional associate" means an individual  
9 who holds a master's degree in veterinary clinical care, or the equivalent,  
10 AS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 12-315-106 (10)  
11 AND 12-315-201 (4), and who is subject to the requirements in section  
12 12-315-203.7.

13           (21.9) "VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE CREDENTIALING  
14 ORGANIZATION" MEANS:

15           (a) A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE CREDENTIALING  
16 ORGANIZATION APPROVED BY THE BOARD PURSUANT TO SECTIONS  
17 12-315-106 (5)(j) AND 12-315-201 (1)(g) TO CREDENTIAL VETERINARY  
18 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES IN THIS STATE; OR

19           (b) THE BOARD IF, PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-201 (3), NO  
20 CREDENTIALING ORGANIZATION IS APPROVED.

21           **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-105, **amend**  
22 **as it will become effective January 1, 2026, (1)(u)** as follows:

23           **12-315-105. License requirements and exceptions - practice of**  
24 **veterinary medicine - █ prescriptions - definitions - rules.** (1) An  
25 individual shall not practice veterinary medicine in this state if the  
26 individual is not a licensed veterinarian. An individual shall not practice  
27 artificial insemination or ova transplantation of cattle or other animal

1 species in this state except in accordance with rules established pursuant  
2 to section 12-315-106 (5)(c). An individual not licensed as a veterinarian  
3 pursuant to this part 1 shall not diagnose, issue prognoses for, prescribe  
4 for, or perform surgery on an animal. This article 315 does not prohibit:

5 (u) A veterinary professional associate from practicing veterinary  
6 medicine ON SPECIES FOR WHICH THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL  
7 ASSOCIATE HAS RECEIVED TRAINING AND that is:

8 (I) Within the veterinary professional associate's ~~advanced~~  
9 education and experience; ~~and~~

10 (II) WITHIN THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR VETERINARY  
11 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES, AS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD PURSUANT TO  
12 SECTION 12-315-201 (1)(f); ~~AND~~

13 ~~(H)~~ (III) Performed while under the ~~APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF~~  
14 ~~supervision of~~ BY a licensed veterinarian who is responsible AND  
15 ~~ACCOUNTABLE~~ for the ~~veterinary professional associate's performance.~~  
16 ACTS AND OMISSIONS OF THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE.

17

18 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-105.5,  
19 **amend** (2), (3)(a) introductory portion, (3)(a)(I), (5)(a) introductory  
20 portion, and (5)(a)(I); and **add** (3.5), (5)(a)(III), (5)(a)(IV), (8), and (9) as  
21 follows:

22 **12-315-105.5. Delegation to and supervision of veterinary**  
23 **technicians, veterinary technician specialists, veterinary professional**  
24 **associates, and other qualified personnel - rules.** (2) A licensed  
25 veterinarian shall establish a veterinarian-client-patient relationship  
26 before the veterinarian delegates a task to a veterinary technician, a  
27 veterinary technician specialist, A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE,

1 or other qualified personnel.

2 (3) (a) When determining whether to delegate a task to a  
3 veterinary technician, a veterinary technician specialist, A VETERINARY  
4 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE, or other qualified personnel, a licensed  
5 veterinarian shall consider:

6 (I) The level of education, skills, training, licensing, and  
7 experience of the veterinary technician, the veterinary technician  
8 specialist, THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE, or other qualified  
9 personnel;

10 (3.5) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY DELEGATE THE PRACTICE OF  
11 VETERINARY MEDICINE TO A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE AND  
12 SUPERVISE THE PERFORMANCE OF THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL  
13 ASSOCIATE IF:

14 (a) THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN HAS SIGNED AN AGREEMENT  
15 WITH THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
16 SECTION 12-315-203.7 (6);

17 (b) THE DELEGATION, SUPERVISION, AND PERFORMANCE OF THE  
18 PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE ARE BEING CONDUCTED IN  
19 COMPLIANCE WITH THIS ARTICLE 315 AND ALL APPLICABLE BOARD RULES;

20 (c) THE SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN IS LOCATED AT THE  
21 SAME VETERINARY PREMISES AS THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL  
22 ASSOCIATE WHILE THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE IS  
23 PERFORMING THE PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE, UNLESS THE  
24 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE MEETS THE INDIRECT SUPERVISION  
25 REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (9) OF THIS SECTION; AND

26 (d) THE SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN IS SUPERVISING NO  
27 MORE THAN THREE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES WHO ARE

1 PRACTICING VETERINARY MEDICINE AT ANY ONE TIME.

2 (5) (a) In ~~promulgating~~ ADOPTING rules pursuant to this section  
3 related to the delegation of tasks and supervision of veterinary  
4 professionals or other personnel, the board shall:

5 (I) Consult with licensed veterinarians, registered veterinary  
6 technicians, veterinary technician specialists, clients, and other relevant  
7 stakeholders, as determined by the board; ~~and~~

8 (III) REQUIRE THAT A LICENSED VETERINARIAN SUPERVISE A  
9 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE UNDER EITHER IMMEDIATE  
10 SUPERVISION OR DIRECT SUPERVISION WHEN THE VETERINARY  
11 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE IS PRACTICING VETERINARY MEDICINE, UNLESS  
12 THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE MEETS THE INDIRECT  
13 SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (9) OF THIS SECTION; AND

14 (IV) PERMIT A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE TO  
15 PERFORM VETERINARY TASKS THAT DO NOT CONSTITUTE THE PRACTICE OF  
16 VETERINARY MEDICINE UNDER INDIRECT SUPERVISION IF THE SUPERVISING  
17 LICENSED VETERINARIAN DETERMINES THAT THE VETERINARY TASKS ARE  
18 WITHIN THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE'S EDUCATION AND  
19 TRAINING AND IF THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN DELEGATES THE  
20 VETERINARY TASKS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION AND APPLICABLE  
21 BOARD RULES.

22 (8) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN SHALL FOLLOW ALL APPLICABLE  
23 STATE AND FEDERAL LAW WHEN ISSUING PRESCRIPTIONS.

24 (9) A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE MAY PRACTICE  
25 VETERINARY MEDICINE UNDER INDIRECT SUPERVISION IF THE VETERINARY  
26 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE MEETS REQUISITE CLINICAL BENCHMARKS,  
27 INCLUDING PERFORMING THE PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE UNDER

1 THE DIRECT OR IMMEDIATE SUPERVISION OF A LICENSED VETERINARIAN  
2 FOR A SPECIFIED AMOUNT OF HOURS, AS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD.

3 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-106, **amend**  
4 **as it will become effective January 1, 2026, (5)(j); and add (10)** as  
5 follows:

6 **12-315-106. Board of veterinary medicine - creation - powers**  
7 **- rules.** (5) The board has the power to:

8 (j) ADOPT RULES TO approve a nationally recognized veterinary  
9 professional associate credentialing organization for purposes of  
10 credentialing veterinary professional associates in this state. The  
11 credentialing organization approved by the board ~~may~~ MUST:

12 (I) Require completion of a university-approved program for  
13 veterinary professional associates ~~and~~ THAT:

14 (A) IF COMPLETED BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2033, MUST BE  
15 APPROVED BY THE BOARD; OR

16 (B) IF COMPLETED ON OR AFTER SEPTEMBER, 1, 2033, MUST BE  
17 ACCREDITED BY A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ACCREDITING ORGANIZATION  
18 OR EQUIVALENT ORGANIZATION, AS APPROVED BY THE BOARD;

19 (II) Require that an applicant pass a veterinary professional  
20 associate national examination THAT HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE BOARD;  
21 AND

22 (III) REQUIRE CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR VETERINARY  
23 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES.

24 (10) (a) THE BOARD MAY ESTABLISH BY RULE AN EQUIVALENT  
25 REGISTRATION PATHWAY FOR A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST TO  
26 REGISTER AS A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE.

27 (b) IN ESTABLISHING THE EQUIVALENT REGISTRATION PATHWAY,

1     THE BOARD:  
2             (I) MAY CONSIDER THE EXPERIENCE, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING  
3     OF A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN WHO IS DESIGNATED AS A VETERINARY  
4     TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-203 (4.5) TO BE  
5     EQUIVALENT TO THE EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR A VETERINARY  
6     PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE REQUIRED BY SECTION 12-315-203.7 (2)(a);  
7     AND  
8             (II) SHALL REQUIRE A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST TO  
9     PASS THE SAME NATIONAL CREDENTIALING EXAM TO DEMONSTRATE  
10    ENTRY-LEVEL COMPETENCY TO PRACTICE AS A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL  
11    ASSOCIATE, AS APPROVED BY THE BOARD.

12            **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-110, **amend**  
13    (3)(a)(II)(C) as follows:

14            **12-315-110. License renewal - waiver - rules - continuing**  
15    **education.** (3) (a) (II) The board-approved continuing educational  
16    program must:

17            (C) Require two hours each licensing period on topics related to  
18    the delegation of tasks TO and the supervision of veterinary technicians,  
19    veterinary technician specialists, VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES,  
20    and other personnel.

21            **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-119, **amend**  
22    (1) as follows:

23            **12-315-119. Veterinary records in custody of animal care**  
24    **providers - definition - rules.** (1) As used in this section, unless the  
25    context otherwise requires, "animal care provider" means:

26            (a) ~~any~~ A veterinary practice or veterinary hospital, including the  
27    veterinary teaching hospital at Colorado state university, that provides

1 veterinary care or treatment to animals; AND

2 (b) A FACILITY WHERE A LICENSED VETERINARIAN PROVIDES  
3 VETERINARY CARE.

4 **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-121, **amend**  
5 (3) as follows:

6 **12-315-121. Corporate structure for the practice of veterinary**  
7 **medicine - definitions.** (3) (a) (I) The practice of veterinary medicine by  
8 a corporation pursuant to this section must be performed by or under the  
9 supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

10 (II) Lay directors, officers, and shareholders of the corporation  
11 shall not exercise any authority whatsoever over the independent medical  
12 judgment of licensed veterinarians performing or supervising the practice  
13 of veterinary medicine by or on behalf of the corporation.

14 (b) A CORPORATION, EMPLOYER, DIRECTOR, OR OFFICER SHALL  
15 NOT REQUIRE A LICENSED VETERINARIAN TO ENTER INTO A SUPERVISORY  
16 AGREEMENT OR TO SUPERVISE A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE  
17 AS A CONDITION OF THE VETERINARIAN'S CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT.

18

19 **SECTION 9.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-201, **amend**  
20 (1)(d) and (1.5); **amend as they will become effective January 1, 2026,**  
21 (1)(e) and (1)(f); and **add** (1)(g), (1)(h), (3), and (4) as follows:

22 **12-315-201. Additional board duties - rules - repeal.** (1) In  
23 addition to any other duties specified in this part 2 and sections  
24 12-315-105.5 and 12-315-106, the board shall:

25 (d) Adopt any rules necessary for the delegation of veterinary  
26 tasks to veterinary technicians, ~~and~~ veterinary technician specialists,  
27 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES, OR OTHER PERSONNEL and for

1 the supervision of those delegated tasks by a licensed veterinarian;

2 (e) Require biennial continuing education for veterinary  
3 professional associates, as ~~may be~~ determined by the board by rule, as a  
4 condition of renewing registration; ~~and~~

5 (f) Adopt any rules necessary for DETERMINING the SCOPE OF  
6 practice ~~and supervision of~~ FOR veterinary professional associates; █

7 (g) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION,  
8 ADOPT RULES TO APPROVE A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED VETERINARY  
9 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE CREDENTIALING ORGANIZATION FOR PURPOSES  
10 OF CREDENTIALING VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES IN THIS STATE  
11 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 12-315-106 (5)(j); AND

12 (h) ADOPT ANY RULES NECESSARY TO ALLOW A VETERINARY  
13 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE TO PRACTICE VETERINARY MEDICINE UNDER  
14 INDIRECT SUPERVISION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 12-315-105.5 (9).

15 (1.5) The board shall not:

16 (a) Charge a fee FOR THE DESIGNATION OF VETERINARY  
17 TECHNICIAN SPECIALISTS in addition to the registration fee charged  
18 ~~pursuant to section 12-315-123 for the designation of veterinary~~  
19 ~~technician specialists~~ FOR VETERINARY TECHNICIANS; or

20 (b) Increase the amount of the registration fee charged ~~pursuant~~  
21 ~~to section 12-315-123~~ for veterinary technicians who seek veterinary  
22 technician specialist designation to an amount that is more than the  
23 registration fee that is required of other veterinary technicians.

24 (3) IF THE BOARD DOES NOT APPROVE A VETERINARY  
25 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE CREDENTIALING ORGANIZATION FOR PURPOSES  
26 OF CREDENTIALING VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES IN THIS STATE  
27 PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-106 (5)(j) BECAUSE THERE IS NO

1 CREDENTIALING ORGANIZATION THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS SET  
2 FORTH IN SECTION 12-315-106 (5)(j) OR FOR ANY OTHER REASON, THE  
3 BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH BY RULE AND ADMINISTER A CREDENTIALING  
4 PROCESS FOR VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE REGISTRATION.

5 (4) THE BOARD MAY ESTABLISH BY RULE AN EQUIVALENT  
6 REGISTRATION PATHWAY FOR A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST TO  
7 REGISTER AS A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE, WHICH PATHWAY  
8 CONSIDERS THE EXPERIENCE, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING OF A  
9 VETERINARY TECHNICIAN WHO IS DESIGNATED AS A VETERINARY  
10 TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-203 (4.5) TO BE  
11 EQUIVALENT TO THE EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR A VETERINARY  
12 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE REQUIRED BY SECTION 12-315-203.7 (2)(a).

13 **SECTION 10.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 12-315-202  
14 as follows:

15 **12-315-202. Registration required - rules.** (1) Effective January  
16 1, 2024, ~~a person~~ AN INDIVIDUAL who practices as a veterinary technician  
17 in this state must be registered by the board pursuant to this part 2 and  
18 rules adopted by the board for the registration of veterinary technicians.

19 (2) EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026, AN INDIVIDUAL WHO INTENDS TO  
20 PRACTICE AS A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE IN THIS STATE  
21 MUST BE REGISTERED BY THE BOARD PURSUANT TO THIS PART 2 AND  
22 RULES ADOPTED BY THE BOARD FOR THE REGISTRATION OF VETERINARY  
23 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES.

24 **SECTION 11.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-203.7,  
25 **amend as they will become effective January 1, 2026, (2), (3), and**  
26 **(4)(c); and add (4)(c.5) and (6) as follows:**

27 **12-315-203.7. Veterinary professional associate - qualifications**

1     **- registration - fees - continuing education - rules. (2) Qualifications.**

2     (a) To be qualified for registration as a veterinary professional associate,  
3     an individual must:

4             ~~(a)~~ (I) Be at least eighteen years of age; ~~and~~

5             ~~(b)~~ (II) Hold a master's degree in veterinary clinical care, or the  
6     equivalent, as determined by the board THAT:

7             (A) IF COMPLETED BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2033, MUST BE FROM A  
8     UNIVERSITY-APPROVED PROGRAM THAT IS APPROVED BY THE BOARD; OR

9             (B) IF COMPLETED ON OR AFTER SEPTEMBER 1, 2033, MUST BE  
10    FROM A UNIVERSITY-APPROVED PROGRAM THAT IS ACCREDITED BY A  
11    NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ACCREDITING ORGANIZATION OR EQUIVALENT  
12    ORGANIZATION, AS APPROVED BY THE BOARD; AND

13            (III) PASS A NATIONAL CREDENTIALING EXAM TO DEMONSTRATE  
14    ENTRY-LEVEL COMPETENCY TO PRACTICE AS A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL  
15    ASSOCIATE, AS APPROVED BY THE BOARD.

16            (b) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO DOES NOT MEET THE QUALIFICATIONS SET  
17    FORTH IN SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION MAY BE QUALIFIED TO  
18    REGISTER AS A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE IF THE INDIVIDUAL:

19            (I) IS REGISTERED AS A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN WITH A  
20    DESIGNATION AS A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST; ==

21            (II) IN LIEU OF THE EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN  
22    SUBSECTION (2)(a)(II) OF THIS SECTION, MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE  
23    EQUIVALENT REGISTRATION PATHWAY AS ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD  
24    PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-106 (10); AND

25            (III) PASSES THE SAME NATIONAL CREDENTIALING EXAM TO  
26    DEMONSTRATE ENTRY-LEVEL COMPETENCY TO PRACTICE AS A  
27    VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE, AS APPROVED BY THE BOARD.

1           (3) **Registration.** ~~Commencing~~ EFFECTIVE January 1, 2026, an  
2 individual who practices as a veterinary professional associate in this state  
3 must be registered by the board pursuant to this section and rules adopted  
4 by the board for the registration of veterinary professional associates.

5           (4) **Rules.** Prior to registering veterinary professional associates  
6 pursuant to this section, the board shall establish, by rule:

7           (c) Any information or confirmation required by the supervising  
8 licensed veterinarian, INCLUDING THE AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO  
9 BETWEEN THE VETERINARIAN AND A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL  
10 ASSOCIATE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS SECTION;

11           (c.5) A REGISTRATION FEE FOR THE REGISTRATION OF VETERINARY  
12 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES, WHICH FEE SHALL:

13           (I) BE PAID BY AN INDIVIDUAL APPLYING FOR REGISTRATION AS A  
14 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE AS PART OF THEIR APPLICATION;  
15 AND

16           (II) BE SET AT AN AMOUNT THAT DOES NOT RESULT IN THE  
17 COLLECTION OF FEES IN AN AGGREGATE AMOUNT THAT IS GREATER THAN  
18 THE AMOUNT OF ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS INCURRED BY THE BOARD IN THE  
19 IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ARTICLE 315 RELATED TO VETERINARY  
20 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES;

21           (6) (a) BEFORE A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE BEGINS  
22 WORKING WITH A SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN, THE  
23 SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN AND THE VETERINARY  
24 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE SHALL ENTER INTO A MUTUAL AGREEMENT  
25 THAT STATES:

26           (I) THAT THE SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN IS  
27 RESPONSIBLE AND ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE ACTS AND OMISSIONS OF THE

1 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE IN THEIR PRACTICE OF  
2 VETERINARY MEDICINE AND VERIFYING THAT THE VETERINARY  
3 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE HAS THE COMPETENCY TO PRACTICE  
4 VETERINARY MEDICINE OR PERFORM ANY TASKS DELEGATED TO THEM BY  
5 THE SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN RELATED TO THE PRACTICE OF  
6 VETERINARY MEDICINE;

7 (II) THAT THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN SHALL SUPERVISE NO  
8 MORE THAN THREE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES WHO ARE  
9 PRACTICING VETERINARY MEDICINE AT ANY ONE TIME AND THAT A  
10 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE AND THE SUPERVISING LICENSED  
11 VETERINARIAN MUST BE LOCATED AT THE SAME VETERINARY PREMISES  
12 WHILE THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE IS PRACTICING  
13 VETERINARY MEDICINE, UNLESS THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL  
14 ASSOCIATE MEETS THE INDIRECT SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION  
15 12-315-105.5 (9);

16 (III) THE SPECIES FOR WHICH THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL  
17 ASSOCIATE HAS RECEIVED EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN THE PRACTICE OF  
18 VETERINARY MEDICINE; AND

19 (IV) THE DATE ON WHICH THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN WILL  
20 BEGIN SUPERVISING AND WORKING WITH THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL  
21 ASSOCIATE.

22 (b) (I) A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE SHALL ENTER  
23 INTO AN AGREEMENT DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (6)(a) OF THIS SECTION  
24 WITH EVERY LICENSED VETERINARIAN THAT WILL SUPERVISE THE  
25 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE IN THE VETERINARY  
26 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE'S PERFORMANCE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE.

27 (II) A SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN SHALL ENTER INTO

1 THE AGREEMENT DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (6)(a) OF THIS SECTION WITH  
2 EVERY VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE EMPLOYED AT THE  
3 VETERINARY PREMISES THAT THE SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN  
4 INTENDS TO SUPERVISE IN THE PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE.

5 (c) THE SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN AND THE  
6 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE SHALL KEEP A COPY OF THE  
7 AGREEMENT DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (6)(a) OF THIS SECTION ON FILE AT  
8 THE VETERINARIAN'S AND VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE'S PLACE  
9 OF BUSINESS.

10 (d) IF THE SUPERVISORY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN A SUPERVISING  
11 LICENSED VETERINARIAN AND THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE  
12 IS TERMINATED FOR ANY REASON, INCLUDING TERMINATION OF  
13 EMPLOYMENT OF EITHER PARTY OR TERMINATION OF THE SUPERVISORY  
14 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PARTIES, THE DATE THAT THE SUPERVISORY  
15 RELATIONSHIP CONCLUDED SHALL BE RECORDED AND PLACED ON FILE  
16 WITH THE AGREEMENT DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (6)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

17 **SECTION 12.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-208, **amend**  
18 **as they will become effective January 1, 2026,** (1)(a)(I) introductory  
19 portion and (1)(a)(I)(B) as follows:

20 **12-315-208. Examination of registrants - behavioral health -**  
21 **mental health - physical conditions.** (1) (a) (I) If, upon receipt of a  
22 signed complaint by a complainant, the board has reasonable cause to  
23 believe that a veterinary technician or veterinary professional associate is  
24 unable to practice as a veterinary technician OR VETERINARY  
25 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE with reasonable skill and safety to patients or  
26 clients due to a physical condition or a behavioral health, mental health,  
27 or substance use disorder, the board may require in writing that the

1 veterinary technician or veterinary professional associate submit to an  
2 examination to evaluate:

3 (B) Any impact the physical condition or the behavioral health,  
4 mental health, or substance use disorder has on the veterinary technician's  
5 or veterinary professional associate's ability to practice as a veterinary  
6 technician OR VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE with reasonable  
7 skill and safety to patients and clients.

8 **SECTION 13.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-209.7,  
9 **amend as they will become effective January 1, 2026,** (1), (2), (3)  
10 introductory portion, and (4) introductory portion; and **add** (5) as follows:

11 **12-315-209.7. Duties of licensed veterinarian - direction and**  
12 **supervision of veterinary professional associate - rules.** (1) Except as  
13 provided in subsection (2) of this section, a person practicing  
14 VETERINARY MEDICINE as a veterinary professional associate may perform  
15 duties and actions authorized pursuant to section 12-315-105 (1)(u) that  
16 are within the scope of the veterinary professional associate's ~~advanced~~  
17 education and experience if the person ~~performs those duties~~ PRACTICES  
18 VETERINARY MEDICINE under the ~~APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF supervision of~~  
19 ~~BY~~ a licensed veterinarian.

20 (2) A veterinary professional associate shall perform only those  
21 duties or actions delegated by the licensed supervising veterinarian, WITH  
22 WHOM THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE HAS A SIGNED  
23 AGREEMENT ~~IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 12-315-203.7 (6), for~~  
24 which the veterinary professional associate has the necessary training, ~~and~~  
25 experience, AND COMPETENCY, as determined by the supervising  
26 veterinarian, to meet generally accepted standards of veterinary care.

27 (3) If a veterinary professional associate is delegated duties

1 beyond the veterinary professional associate's training, ~~and~~ experience,  
2 AND COMPETENCY, the licensed veterinarian:

3 (4) If a veterinary professional associate performs duties beyond  
4 the veterinary professional associate's training, ~~and~~ experience, AND  
5 COMPETENCY or does not conform with the requirement to perform all  
6 duties and actions pursuant to section 12-315-105 (1)(u) under the  
7 APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF supervision ~~of~~ BY a licensed supervising  
8 veterinarian as specified in subsection (1) of this section, the veterinary  
9 professional associate may be subject to:

10 (5)(a) BEFORE A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE ENGAGES  
11 IN THE PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE ON A PATIENT, THE  
12 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE SHALL CLEARLY IDENTIFY  
13 THEMSELF TO THE CLIENT, BOTH VISUALLY AND VERBALLY, AS A  
14 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE. A PERSON THAT EMPLOYS A  
15 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE SHALL IDENTIFY TO A CLIENT THAT  
16 A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE PROVIDING CARE TO THE  
17 CLIENT'S ANIMAL IS A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE.

18 (b) THE BOARD MAY ADOPT RULES REGARDING HOW A  
19 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE AND A PERSON THAT EMPLOYS A  
20 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE MUST IDENTIFY THE VETERINARY  
21 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE TO CLIENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION  
22 (5)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

23 

24 **SECTION 14.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-30-109, **amend**  
25 (2) and (4)(e); and **add** (4)(f.5) as follows:

26 **12-30-109. Prescriptions - limitations - definition - rules.** (2) A  
27 prescriber licensed pursuant to article 315 of this title 12 may prescribe

1     opioids and benzodiazepines electronically IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
2     SECTION 12-315-305.

3             (4) As used in this section, "prescriber" means:

4             (e) A podiatrist licensed pursuant to article 290 of this title 12; ~~or~~

5             (f.5) A VETERINARIAN LICENSED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 315 OF  
6     THIS TITLE 12; OR

7             ■ ■

8             **SECTION 15. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
9     takes effect January 1, 2026; except that, if a referendum petition is filed  
10    pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this  
11    act or an item, section, or part of this act within the ninety-day period  
12    after final adjournment of the general assembly, then the act, item,  
13    section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the  
14    general election to be held in November 2026 and, in such case, will take  
15    effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the  
16    governor.