

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 25-0073.01 Christopher McMichael x4775

HOUSE BILL 25-1285

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

McCormick,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Kipp and Pelton B.,

House Committees

Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources

Senate Committees

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.

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.

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); and **add** (1.5) as
23 follows:

24 **12-315-105. License requirements and exceptions - practice of**
25 **veterinary medicine - veterinarian-client-patient relationship -**
26 **prescriptions - definitions - rules.** (1) An individual shall not practice
27 veterinary medicine in this state if the individual is not a licensed

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

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

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

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

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

19 (1.5) ONLY A LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY ESTABLISH AND
20 MAINTAIN A VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP.

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

25 **12-315-105.5. Delegation to and supervision of veterinary**
26 **technicians, veterinary technician specialists, veterinary professional**
27 **associates, and other qualified personnel - rules.** (2) A licensed

1 veterinarian shall establish a veterinarian-client-patient relationship
2 before the veterinarian delegates a task to a veterinary technician, a
3 veterinary technician specialist, A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE,
4 or other qualified personnel.

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

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

13 (3.5) A LICENSED VETERINARIAN MAY DELEGATE THE PRACTICE OF
14 VETERINARY MEDICINE TO A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE AND
15 SUPERVISE THE PERFORMANCE OF THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL
16 ASSOCIATE IF:

17 (a) THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN HAS SIGNED AN AGREEMENT
18 WITH THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE IN ACCORDANCE WITH
19 SECTION 12-315-203.7 (6);

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

23 (c) THE SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN IS LOCATED AT THE
24 SAME VETERINARY PREMISES AS THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL
25 ASSOCIATE WHILE THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE IS
26 PERFORMING THE PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE; AND

27 (d) THE SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN IS SUPERVISING NO

1 MORE THAN THREE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES WHO ARE
2 PRACTICING VETERINARY MEDICINE AT ANY ONE TIME.

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

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

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

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

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

25 (9) A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE MAY PRACTICE
26 VETERINARY MEDICINE UNDER INDIRECT SUPERVISION IF:

27 (a) THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE MEETS REQUISITE

1 CLINICAL BENCHMARKS, INCLUDING PERFORMING THE PRACTICE OF
2 VETERINARY MEDICINE UNDER THE DIRECT OR IMMEDIATE SUPERVISION OF
3 A LICENSED VETERINARIAN FOR A SPECIFIED AMOUNT OF HOURS, AS
4 DETERMINED BY THE BOARD; AND

5 (b) THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN WHO SUPERVISES THE
6 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE DETERMINES THAT THE
7 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE IS CAPABLE OF PERFORMING
8 VETERINARY MEDICINE TASKS UNDER INDIRECT SUPERVISION.

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 (II) Require that an applicant pass a veterinary professional
26 associate national examination THAT HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE BOARD;

27 AND

1 (III) REQUIRE CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR VETERINARY
2 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES.

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

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

13 **12-315-110. License renewal - waiver - rules - continuing**
14 **education.** (3) (a) (II) The board-approved continuing educational
15 program must:

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

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

22 **12-315-119. Veterinary records in custody of animal care**
23 **providers - definition - rules.** (1) As used in this section, unless the
24 context otherwise requires, "animal care provider" means:

25 (a) ~~any~~ A veterinary practice or veterinary hospital, including the
26 veterinary teaching hospital at Colorado state university, that provides
27 veterinary care or treatment to animals; AND

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

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

5 **12-315-121. Corporate structure for the practice of veterinary**
6 **medicine - definitions.** (3) (a) (I) The practice of veterinary medicine by
7 a corporation pursuant to this section must be performed by or under the
8 supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

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

13 (b) A CORPORATION, EMPLOYER, DIRECTOR, OR OFFICER SHALL
14 NOT REQUIRE A LICENSED VETERINARIAN TO SUPERVISE A VETERINARY
15 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE AS A CONDITION OF EMPLOYMENT.

16 ■ ■

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

20 **12-315-201. Additional board duties - rules - repeal.** (1) In
21 addition to any other duties specified in this part 2 and sections
22 12-315-105.5 and 12-315-106, the board shall:

23 (d) Adopt any rules necessary for the delegation of veterinary
24 tasks to veterinary technicians, ~~and~~ veterinary technician specialists,
25 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES, OR OTHER PERSONNEL and for
26 the supervision of those delegated tasks by a licensed veterinarian;

27 (e) Require biennial continuing education for veterinary

1 professional associates, as ~~may be~~ determined by the board by rule, as a
2 condition of renewing registration; ~~and~~

3 (f) Adopt any rules necessary for DETERMINING the SCOPE OF
4 practice ~~and supervision of~~ FOR veterinary professional associates; ■

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

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

13 (1.5) The board shall not:

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

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

22 (3) IF THE BOARD DOES NOT APPROVE A VETERINARY
23 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE CREDENTIALING ORGANIZATION FOR PURPOSES
24 OF CREDENTIALING VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES IN THIS STATE
25 PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-315-106 (5)(j) BECAUSE THERE IS NO
26 CREDENTIALING ORGANIZATION THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS SET
27 FORTH IN SECTION 12-315-106 (5)(j) OR FOR ANY OTHER REASON, THE

1 BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH BY RULE AND ADMINISTER A CREDENTIALING
2 PROCESS FOR VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE REGISTRATION.

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

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

13 **12-315-202. Registration required - rules.** (1) Effective January
14 1, 2024, ~~a person~~ AN INDIVIDUAL who practices as a veterinary technician
15 in this state must be registered by the board pursuant to this part 2 and
16 rules adopted by the board for the registration of veterinary technicians.

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

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

25 **12-315-203.7. Veterinary professional associate - qualifications**
26 **- registration - fees - continuing education - rules.** (2) **Qualifications.**
27 (a) To be qualified for registration as a veterinary professional associate,

1 an individual must:

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

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

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

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

11 (III) PASS A NATIONAL CREDENTIALING EXAM APPROVED BY THE
12 BOARD DEMONSTRATING ENTRY-LEVEL COMPETENCY TO PRACTICE AS A
13 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE.

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

17 (I) IS REGISTERED AS A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN WITH A
18 DESIGNATION AS A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST; AND

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

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

27 (4) **Rules.** Prior to registering veterinary professional associates

1 pursuant to this section, the board shall establish, by rule:

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

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

8 (I) BE PAID BY AN INDIVIDUAL APPLYING FOR REGISTRATION AS A
9 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE AS PART OF THEIR APPLICATION;
10 AND

11 (II) BE SET AT AN AMOUNT THAT DOES NOT RESULT IN THE
12 COLLECTION OF FEES IN AN AGGREGATE AMOUNT THAT IS GREATER THAN
13 THE AMOUNT OF ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS INCURRED BY THE BOARD IN THE
14 IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ARTICLE 315 RELATED TO VETERINARY
15 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES;

16 (6) (a) BEFORE A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE BEGINS
17 WORKING WITH A SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN, THE
18 SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN AND THE VETERINARY
19 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE SHALL ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT THAT
20 STATES:

21 (I) THAT THE SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN IS
22 RESPONSIBLE AND ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE ACTS AND OMISSIONS OF THE
23 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE IN THEIR PRACTICE OF
24 VETERINARY MEDICINE AND VERIFYING THAT THE VETERINARY
25 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE HAS THE COMPETENCY TO PRACTICE
26 VETERINARY MEDICINE OR PERFORM ANY TASKS DELEGATED TO THEM BY
27 THE SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN RELATED TO THE PRACTICE OF

1 VETERINARY MEDICINE;

2 (II) THAT THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN SHALL SUPERVISE NO
3 MORE THAN THREE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES WHO ARE
4 PRACTICING VETERINARY MEDICINE AT ANY ONE TIME AND THAT A
5 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE AND THE SUPERVISING LICENSED
6 VETERINARIAN MUST BE LOCATED AT THE SAME VETERINARY PREMISES
7 WHILE THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE IS PRACTICING
8 VETERINARY MEDICINE; AND

9 (III) THE SPECIES FOR WHICH THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL
10 ASSOCIATE HAS RECEIVED EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN THE PRACTICE OF
11 VETERINARY MEDICINE.

12 (b) (I) A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE SHALL ENTER
13 INTO AN AGREEMENT DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (6)(a) OF THIS SECTION
14 WITH EVERY LICENSED VETERINARIAN THAT WILL SUPERVISE THE
15 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE IN THE VETERINARY
16 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE'S PERFORMANCE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE.

17 (II) A SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN SHALL ENTER INTO
18 THE AGREEMENT DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (6)(a) OF THIS SECTION WITH
19 EVERY VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE EMPLOYED AT THE
20 VETERINARY PREMISES THAT THE SUPERVISING LICENSED VETERINARIAN
21 INTENDS TO SUPERVISE IN THE PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE.

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

25 **12-315-208. Examination of registrants - behavioral health -**
26 **mental health - physical conditions.** (1) (a) (I) If, upon receipt of a
27 signed complaint by a complainant, the board has reasonable cause to

1 believe that a veterinary technician or veterinary professional associate is
2 unable to practice as a veterinary technician OR VETERINARY
3 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE with reasonable skill and safety to patients or
4 clients due to a physical condition or a behavioral health, mental health,
5 or substance use disorder, the board may require in writing that the
6 veterinary technician or veterinary professional associate submit to an
7 examination to evaluate:

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

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

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

25 (2) A veterinary professional associate shall perform only those
26 duties or actions delegated by the licensed supervising veterinarian, WITH
27 WHOM THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE HAS A SIGNED

1 AGREEMENT [REDACTED] IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 12-315-203.7 (6), for
2 which the veterinary professional associate has the necessary training, and
3 experience, AND COMPETENCY, as determined by the supervising
4 veterinarian, to meet generally accepted standards of veterinary care.

5 (3) If a veterinary professional associate is delegated duties
6 beyond the veterinary professional associate's training, and experience,
7 AND COMPETENCY, the licensed veterinarian:

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

15 (5) BEFORE A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE ENGAGES IN
16 THE PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE ON A PATIENT, THE VETERINARY
17 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE MUST:

18 (a) WEAR A NAME-TAG OR SIMILAR IDENTIFICATION OF SUFFICIENT
19 SIZE IN A CONSPICUOUS MANNER EASILY VISIBLE TO CLIENTS THAT
20 IDENTIFIES THE PERSON AS A VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE,
21 WITHOUT ABBREVIATION; AND

22 (b) INTRODUCE THEMSELVES TO A CLIENT AS A REGISTERED
23 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE.

24 [REDACTED]
25 **SECTION 14.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-315-302, amend
26 (1) and (3) as follows:

27 **12-315-302. Veterinarian-client-patient relationship -**

1 **telemedicine.** (1) Only a licensed veterinarian may establish AND
2 MAINTAIN a veterinarian-client-patient relationship in this state.

3 (3) An established veterinarian-client-patient relationship may be
4 maintained ONLY BY A LICENSED VETERINARIAN through examinations
5 that occur using telecommunications technology in between appropriate
6 in-person, physical examinations or visits to the premises where the
7 patient is kept.

8 [REDACTED]
9 **SECTION 15.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-30-109, **amend**
10 (2) and (4)(e); and **add** (4)(f.5) as follows:

11 **12-30-109. Prescriptions - limitations - definition - rules.** (2) A
12 prescriber licensed pursuant to article 315 of this title 12 may prescribe
13 opioids and benzodiazepines electronically IN ACCORDANCE WITH
14 SECTION 12-315-305.

15 (4) As used in this section, "prescriber" means:
16 (e) A podiatrist licensed pursuant to article 290 of this title 12; ~~or~~
17 (f.5) A VETERINARIAN LICENSED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 315 OF
18 THIS TITLE 12; OR

19 [REDACTED]
20 **SECTION 16. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
21 takes effect January 1, 2026; except that, if a referendum petition is filed
22 pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this
23 act or an item, section, or part of this act within the ninety-day period
24 after final adjournment of the general assembly, then the act, item,
25 section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the

1 general election to be held in November 2026 and, in such case, will take
2 effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the
3 governor.