

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

REREVISED

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

LLS NO. 25-0073.01 Christopher McMichael x4775

HOUSE BILL 25-1285

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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
3rd Reading Unamended
April 9, 2025

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.

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.