



State Legislative Update

February 2022

This issue of the State Legislative Update includes select summaries of bills and regulations tracked by the AVMA Division of State Advocacy that were introduced in February. For more information, please contact Mr. Cody Corcelius, Policy Analyst, AVMA Division of State Advocacy (wcorcelius@avma.org).

Animal drug compounding

In **Iowa**, the **Iowa Veterinary Medical Association** worked with the state Board of Pharmacy to update rules related to compounded preparations. [IA ARC 6178C](#) would allow veterinarians who have obtained compounded preparations for office stock use to dispense compounded preparations when timely access to a patient-specific supply of compounded medication is not available, no commercially available product can meet the need of the patient, and the supply does not exceed 14 days.

Cannabis

Legislation in **California** ([CA AB 1885](#)) would prohibit the veterinary board from disciplining a veterinarian who recommends the use of cannabis on an animal for potential therapeutic effect or health supplementation purposes unless the veterinarian is employed by or had an agreement with a cannabis licensee. It also requires the Veterinary Medical Board to adopt regulations by January 1, 2024, for veterinarians to follow-up when recommending cannabis within the VCPR and requires cannabis products intended for animals to comply with additional concentration and other standards adopted by regulations. In **Rhode Island**, [RI HB 7469](#) would add domestic pets as eligible to use medical marijuana if certified by a licensed veterinarian. AVMA resources and more information on the use of cannabis in pets can be found [here](#).

Liability

Legislation in **Iowa** ([IA HF 2429](#)) would provide a veterinarian with immunity from administrative, civil, or criminal liability when, in good faith, reporting alleged mistreatment of an animal. **Missouri's** [SB 1182](#) would require veterinarians, animal control officers, and animal humane investigators to be mandated reporters in cases of abuse and neglect of children, the elderly, and other vulnerable persons.

Practice act review

The **Colorado** sunset review process requires evaluation of regulatory programs, including the state's veterinary practice act. [CO HB 22-1235](#) would implement recommendations from the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies' 2021 sunset [report](#) on the "[Colorado Veterinary Practice Act](#)." The **Colorado Veterinary Medical Association** supports provisions in the bill that would establish licensure of veterinary technicians, expand continuing education requirements, and create a veterinary professional assistance program.

The **Kentucky Board of Veterinary Examiners** has taken steps to update the state’s practice act. KY HB 493 would establish rules for veterinary telehealth, including definitions for telemedicine, teletriage, teleconsulting, and teleadvice. Provisions would clarify that a veterinarian must physically examine the animal or make medically appropriate visits to the premises within the past 12 months to establish a valid VCPR; prohibit a VCPR from being established solely by telehealth; establish basic standards for medical records; require criminal background checks for licensure; establish title protections for licensed veterinary technicians; require veterinary facilities to register with the board and be inspected at least once every five years; and establish a program for the board to issue educational awards in an effort to alleviate veterinary shortages in agriculture.

Scope of practice

Declaw legislation continues to be a flashpoint for state legislatures in 2022. Legislation was introduced in **California** (CA AB 2606), **New Jersey** (NJ A 2578), **Rhode Island** (HB 7574), and **Wisconsin** (WI SB 1001) to prohibit declawing of cats except for therapeutic purposes. New Jersey and Rhode Island bill provisions would also require the veterinarian who determines a procedure is necessary to file a written statement with the purpose of the procedure and the name and address of the animal’s owner and provide a copy of the statement to the owner. Bills in **Minnesota** (MN SF 3076/MN HF 3637) would prohibit a landlord who allows an animal on the premises from advertising the availability of a property in a manner designed to discourage application because an applicant's animal has not been declawed or devocalized; refuse to allow occupancy or refuse to negotiate because of that person's refusal to declaw or devocalize an animal; or require a tenant to declaw or devocalize an animal allowed on the premises. Resources for veterinarians and pet owners, including AVMA’s policy on the declawing of domesticated cats, can be found here.

Legislation related to chiropractic animal care has been introduced in several states. **Idaho** ID H.641 would alter the definition of “indirect supervision” to remove the requirement for written or oral treatment instructions or an examination by a supervising veterinarian prior to treatment by a chiropractic allied health professional and allow qualified chiropractic health professionals the ability to advertise and offer services to the public. **Iowa** IA SF 2212 would require the Board of Veterinary Medicine to grant registration to licensed chiropractors if they hold a valid license and are certified by the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association. And **Missouri** MO HB 2739 would permit an individual certified by the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association or International Veterinary Chiropractic Association to provide chiropractic care to an animal without the supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

VCPR and telemedicine

A second VCPR-related bill was introduced in **Michigan**. MI HB 5804 would allow a VCPR to be formed if a veterinarian recently examined the animal in person or obtained current knowledge of the animal through instrumentation and diagnostic equipment that can be transmitted electronically or through a referral from another veterinarian. MI HB 4912, introduced in May 2021, amended in June 2021, and currently held in committee, would require that a veterinarian must have recently seen and be personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the patient by the client by virtue of physically examining the patient or by medically

appropriate and timely professional visits to the location where the patient is kept.

Regulations were proposed in **Arkansas** ([AR 209.05.22-001](#)) following a law enacted in 2021 ([AR HB 1099](#)) authorizing the state Veterinary Medical Examining Board to promulgate rules outlining the use of telehealth and telemedicine in the practice of veterinary medicine. The proposal would require that a VCPR be established by an in-person examination or by medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animal is kept, with an exception for emergencies, for services to be provided by a veterinarian via telehealth. The public comment period on the proposed rule, which also defines telehealth, telemedicine, and teletriage, closes on March 12, 2022. A bill in **West Virginia** ([WV HB 4570](#)) would also establish requirements for the practice of veterinary telehealth. Provisions would require a VCPR to be in place in order to provide veterinary care via telehealth services. This would include a veterinarian performing an in-person exam within the 12 months prior to the telehealth service, and at least every 12 months thereafter.

Veterinary technicians

Championed by the **Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association** and the **Minnesota Association of Veterinary Technicians**, and supported by the AVMA, [MN SF 2935](#) would establish licensure for veterinary technicians. A companion bill ([MN HF 2553](#)) was introduced in 2021. As noted above, **Colorado's** [CO HB 22-1235](#) would establish licensure of veterinary technicians, and **Kentucky's** [KY HB 493](#) would amend the existing statute to allow for distinction between the college-educated, licensed veterinary technician and the trained layperson veterinary assistant and clarify the title protections available for licensed veterinary technician (LVT) classes.

Animal Abuse Cruelty			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Utah	UT SB 165	Would create and amend definitions of terms as they relate to animal cruelty provisions, including adequate care, good animal husbandry practices, production animal, sanitary conditions, and shelter.	Introduced 2/2/2022

Animal Shelters			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
California	CA AB 1881	Would require every public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group to post a copy of the Dog and Cat Bill of Rights and provide penalties for not posting.	Introduced 2/8/2022
New Jersey	NJ S 1736	Would prohibit euthanizing animals in shelters or pounds except for health or safety reasons.	Introduced 2/28/2022

Appropriations			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Kansas	KS HB 2588 KS SB 422	Would appropriate \$15,559,460 to the Kansas State University Veterinary Medical Center.	Introduced 2/1/2022
Minnesota	MN HF 2980	Would appropriate \$1,500,000 for the purchase of equipment to test for certain diseases at the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.	Introduced 2/1/2022

Minnesota	MN HF 3225 MN SF 3562	Would appropriate \$31,000,000 from bond proceeds to the Minnesota Zoological Board for the purposes of improving infrastructure and exhibits; designing, renovating, constructing, and equipping the animal hospital building; and reopening the nocturnal trail.	Introduced 2/10/2022
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Companion Animals

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Minnesota	MN SF 3076 MN HF 3637	Would prohibit a landlord who allows animals on the premises from: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Requiring a tenant or occupant of real property to declaw or devocalize an animal allowed on the premise; 2. Refusing to allow the occupancy of a property to negotiate the occupancy of a real property or to otherwise deny occupancy because of a person's refusal or declaw or devocalize an animal; 3. Requiring a tenant or occupant of real property to declaw or devocalize an animal allowed on the. 	Introduced 2/10/2022
West Virginia	WV HB 4806	Would prohibit the enactment or enforcement of any statute, ordinance, legislative rule, policy, or law that applies specifically to a particular dog breed.	Introduced 2/15/2022

Continuing Education

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Washington	WA 22-04-085	Would: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement the statutory requirement for a one-time, 3-hour training in suicide prevention for veterinarians and veterinary technicians; and, 2. No longer require 4 hours of AIDS education and training to qualify for licensure. 	Proposed 1/31/2022

Education

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Idaho	ID S 1344	Would establish a loan repayment program for rural veterinarians who treat large animals.	Introduced 2/23/2022
Kansas	KS HB 2605	Would: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish an advisory committee that will serve over the veterinary training program of rural Kansas to help select students, determine the needs of the program and provide input to the college of veterinary medicine at Kansas State University; 2. Increase the loan amount (from \$20,000) to not more than \$25,000 per year; 3. Increase the county population requirement maximum (from 35,000 to 40,000) for counties where program participants must engage in the full-time practice of veterinary medicine; and, 4. Add the ability for participants to fulfill certain requirements by working in a registered veterinary premises under a licensed veterinarian if food animal patients make up at least 50% of such veterinarian's practice. 	Introduced 2/4/2022
Missouri	MO HB 2622	Would require "health-related professional schools," which includes veterinary schools, to offer and require a one-hour instructional course on state and federal controlled substances laws and prescribing.	Introduced 2/1/2022
New Jersey	NJ A.C.R 114	Would express support for new School of Veterinary Medicine at Rowan University	Introduced 2/15/2022

West Virginia	WV HCR 68	Would request a formal feasibility study be conducted on the viability of establishing an accredited school of veterinary medicine in West Virginia.	Introduced 2/15/2022
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Emergency | First Responders

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Arkansas	AR 007.03.22-001	Would: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allow Emergency Medical Services Personnel (EMSPs) to transport injured police dogs to veterinary hospital or clinic if a person does not require medical attention; and, 2. Eliminate the ability for EMSPs to provide emergency care to a police dog without limitation. 	Published 2/2/2022
Minnesota	MN SF 2858	Would: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Require ambulance personnel to provide emergency treatment and ambulance service to a veterinary care facility of a police dog injured in the line of duty, if it does not inhibit the ability to provide treatment and service to a person; 2. Provide liability protection for ambulance service personnel if services provided to police dog were provided in good faith and within the scope of their authority; and, 3. Require appropriate training for ambulance service personnel to provide basic life support of a dog, including administering naloxone, and safe handling procedures for injured police dogs, including a box muzzle. 	Introduced 2/3/2022

Liability

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Arizona	AZ HB 2692	Would define “malpractice,” “gross incompetence,” and “gross negligence” in the practice of veterinary medicine to include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The failure of an examining veterinarian to provide the owner with all medical information related to the animal’s health; 2. The failure to provide records or copies of veterinary medical services to the animal owner or another licensed veterinarian currently providing services within ten days of the owner or current veterinarian’s request; 3. Making a false statement on or altering any document, record, or report concerning the medical treatment of an animal; and, 4. Would provide a person with the private right of action against a veterinarian if there is a VCPR in place with the veterinarian who does not fully disclose all the information of an animal’s medical condition. 	Introduced 2/3/2022
Iowa	IA HF 2429 IA HSB 708	Would provide for immunity from administrative, civil, or criminal liability when reporting alleged mistreatment in good faith.	Published 2/10/2022
Missouri	MO SB 1182	Would: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Require veterinarians, animal control officers, and animal humane investigators to be mandated reporters in cases of abuse and neglect of children, the elderly, and other vulnerable persons; 2. Require any animal control officers or animal humane investigators to receive one hour of training within the first 60 days of employment to recognize the signs of abuse or neglect in children, the elderly, and vulnerable persons; 3. Create a mandated reporting requirement for certain mental health, educational, protective services, and law enforcement 	Introduced 2/24/2022

		<p>personnel to report cases of companion animal abuse or neglect to a hotline established by the Missouri Animal Control Association (MACA);</p> <p>4. Make a mandated reporter, including a veterinarian, who fails to make a report subject to discipline by their professional licensing board and a fine; and,</p> <p>5. Require protective services employees with direct contact with children, the elderly, and vulnerable persons to receive one hour of training within the first 60 days of employment to recognize the signs of abuse or neglect in companion animals.</p>	
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Licensure

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Alaska	AK HB 302	Would allow the veterinary board to adopt a certification process for the licensure of veterinary medicine.	Introduced 2/4/2022
New Jersey	NJ A 2548	Would require licensure of dog trainers.	Introduced 2/14/2022
New Mexico	NM HB 56	<p>Will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Require that a nonresident veterinarian shall be issued no more than a sixty-day temporary permit and no more than two sixty-day permits to be issued in a calendar year; and, 2. Allow a nonresident veterinarian that is employed by or contracted with the state, a municipality, or a county to provide veterinary services at a nationally accredited zoo or aquarium in New Mexico to have a temporary permit to be issued for no more than six-months and no more than two consecutive six-month, temporary permits. 	Finalized 2/28/2022

Marijuana | Cannabis | Hemp

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
California	CA AB 1885	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prohibit the board from disciplining a veterinarian who recommends the use of cannabis on an animal for potential therapeutic effect or health supplementation purposes, unless the veterinarian is employed by or has an agreement with a cannabis licensee; 2. Require the board to adopt guidelines by 1/1/2024 for veterinarians to follow-up when recommending cannabis within the VCPR; and, 3. Require cannabis products intended for animals comply with additional concentration and other standards adopted by regulations. 	Introduced 2/8/2022
Rhode Island	RI HB 7469	Would add domestic pets as eligible to use medical marijuana if certified by a licensed veterinarian.	Introduced 2/11/2022

Legal

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Maryland	MD SB 815 MD HB 1375	Would allow for noneconomic damages in cases where the tortious action causes an injury to or death of a pet. Damages would be capped at \$10,000.	Introduced 2/9/2022
Rhode Island	RI SB 2227	Would allow a civil or criminal court to, at their discretion, allow the appointment of pro bono attorneys and supervised law students to act as animal advocates in animal cruelty and abuse cases to promote the interests of justice.	Introduced 2/9/2022

Utah	UT HB 476	Would prohibit a political subdivision from adopting or enforcing an ordinance or regulation that prohibits or effectively prohibits the operation of an animal enterprise (including research, testing or agriculture) or the use of working animals.	Introduced 2/24/2022
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Pharmaceuticals | Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Iowa	IA ARC 6178C	Would allow veterinarians who have obtained compounded preparations for office stock use to dispense the compounded preparations to the owner of a veterinary patient to treat an immediate medical need when: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Timely access to a patient-specific supply of compounded medication is not available; 2. No commercially available product can meet the need of the patient; 3. Lack of treatment will likely result in patient harm; and, 4. The supply does not exceed 14 days. 	Published 2/9/2022
New Jersey	NJ A 2731	Would expand the prescription monitoring program to include veterinarians.	Introduced 2/8/2022

Research | Research Animals

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Rhode Island	RI HB 7297	Would ban a person or manufacturer from selling or offering for sale any cosmetic that was developed or manufactured using animal testing.	Introduced 2/2/2022

Scope of Practice

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
California	CA AB 2606	Would prohibit a person from performing surgical claw removal, declawing, or a tendonectomy on any cat or otherwise altering a cat's toes, claws, or paws to prevent or impair the normal function of the cat's toes, claws, or paws, except for a therapeutic purpose.	Introduced 2/18/2022
Idaho	ID H.641	Would alter the definition of "indirect supervision" to remove the requirement for written or oral treatment instructions or an examination by a supervising veterinarian prior to treatment by a chiropractic allied health professional and allow qualified chiropractic health professionals the ability to advertise and offer services to the public.	Introduced 2/15/2022
Iowa	IA SF 2212	Would require the Board of Veterinary Medicine to grant a registration to a licensed chiropractor to provide services to an animal if the chiropractor holds a current, valid certification from the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association.	Introduced 2/8/2022
Missouri	MO HB 2739	Would permit an individual certified by the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association or International Veterinary Chiropractic Association to provide chiropractic care to an animal without the supervision of a licensed veterinarian.	Introduced 2/22/2022
New Jersey	NJ A 2578	Would: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prohibit declawing of a cat or other animal, unless a licensed veterinarian has determined that the procedure is necessary for a therapeutic purpose; and, 2. Require a licensed veterinarian who declaws a cat for therapeutic reasons to provide the Department of Health and the owner a written statement stating the purpose for performing the procedure. 	Introduced 2/8/2022

New Jersey	NJ A 2612	Would exempt farriers and horseshoers from the licensed practice of veterinary medicine.	Introduced 2/8/2022
Rhode Island	RI HB 7574	Would: 1. Prohibit declawing of a cat or other animal, unless a licensed veterinarian has determined that the procedure is necessary for a therapeutic purpose; and, 2. Require a licensed veterinarian who declaws a cat for therapeutic reasons to provide the Department of Environmental Management and the owner a written statement stating the purpose for performing the procedure.	Introduced 2/18/2022
Wisconsin	WI SB 1001	Would prohibit a veterinarian or technician from performing a declawing procedure on a cat, except for therapeutic purposes.	Introduced 2/17/2022

Small Business

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Washington	WA 22-04-087	Would allow entities to provide full veterinary services to low-income households, instead of being limited to electronic identification, surgical sterilization, and vaccinations at a reduced cost.	Proposed 1/31/2022

Spaying | Neutering

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
New Jersey	NJ A 2275	Would mandate, with limited exceptions, that: 1. No cat may be released for adoption from an animal rescue organization facility, shelter, or pound unless the cat has been spayed or neutered by a licensed veterinarian; and, 2. Any community cat trapped and impounded at a shelter or pound must be spayed or neutered, ear-tipped, and vaccinated against rabies before being returned to the location where the community cat was trapped.	Introduced 2/7/2022
West Virginia	WV HB 4577	Would establish the "Community Cat Fund" to be used for grants to municipalities and counties to establish programs to humanely trap community cats, sterilize, ear-tip, and vaccinate against rabies.	Introduced 2/8/2022

State Programs | Board of Veterinary Medicine

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
California	CA SB 1029	Would require the State Department of Public Health and the Department of Food and Agriculture to jointly establish and administer the One Health Program for the purpose of developing a framework for interagency coordination in responding to zoonotic diseases and reducing hazards to human and nonhuman animal health in accordance with the One Health principles set forth by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.	Introduced 2/15/2022
Colorado	CO HB 22-1235	Would implement recommendations of the state Department of Regulatory Agencies' 2021 sunset report on the "Colorado Veterinary Practice Act" by: 1. Creating a veterinary professional assistance program; 2. Requiring credit hours of practice act jurisprudence as part of veterinarians' continuing education program and permitting veterinarians to take nonbiomedical courses which may include client communication, management, and leadership; 3. Establishing regulation of veterinary technicians and adding two veterinary technicians to the state board of veterinary medicine; and,	Introduced 2/11/2022

		4. Authorizing a person who is not a licensed veterinarian to administer rabies vaccinations in a clinic setting under direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian, or through the indirect supervision of a licensed veterinarian if the person is working on behalf of an animal shelter for shelter-owned animals.	
Kentucky	KY HB 493	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish rules for veterinary telehealth, including defining telemedicine, teletriage, teleconsulting, and teleadvice; 2. Clarify that a veterinarian must physically examine the animal or make medically appropriate visits to the premises within the past 12 months to establish a VCPR; 3. Prohibit a VCPR from being established solely by telehealth; 4. Require veterinary facilities to be inspected at least once every five years to ensure compliance; and, 5. Establish basic standards for medical records; 6. Require criminal background checks for licensure; 7. Establish title protections for licensed veterinary technicians; 8. Require veterinary facilities to register with the board and be inspected at least once every five years; and, 9. Establish a program for the board to issue educational awards in an effort to alleviate veterinary shortages in agriculture. 	Introduced 2/14/2022
West Virginia	WV HB 4548	<p>Would require veterinarians who engage in the production of animal blood and blood component products solely for use in their own practice or for the State Veterinary Blood Bank to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Follow current and best practices on animal blood banking; 2. Ensure that the production of blood and blood component products is safe and not injurious to the donor animal's health; 3. Utilize bloodborne pathogen testing for all canine and feline blood donors in accordance with the best clinical practices in the veterinary field; 4. Maintain onsite records available for inspection by the Veterinary Medical Board including information documenting any history of blood draws or use of anesthesia on the animal, the number and date of donations collected, the estimated milliliters of blood collected per donation based on weight in grams, any adverse events, and any complaints from owners regarding animals who donate blood or blood component product; and, 5. Obtain the informed written consent of the owner of the animal blood donor and keep a record of that consent. 	Introduced 2/3/2022

Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship | Telemedicine

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Arkansas	AR 209.05.22-001	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Define telehealth, telemedicine and teletriage; 2. Require a veterinarian delivering telemedicine services to a patient in Arkansas to be licensed in Arkansas and have an established VCPR; and, 3. Require a VCPR to be established by an in-person examination or by medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animal is kept, with an exception for emergencies, for all services provided by a veterinarian via telemedicine. 	Published 2/9/2022
Michigan	MI HB 5804	Would allow a VCPR to be formed if a veterinarian recently examined the animal in person or obtained current knowledge of the animal through instrumentation and diagnostic equipment that can be	Introduced 2/18/2022

		transmitted electronically or through a referral from another veterinarian.	
West Virginia	WV HB 4570	Would establish requirements for the practice of veterinary telehealth, including a requirement that a VCPR must be established by an in-person examination within the 12 months prior to offering the telehealth service, and at least every 12 months thereafter.	Introduced 2/8/2022

Veterinary Technicians | Veterinary Assistants

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Minnesota	MN SF 2935	Would establish licensure for veterinary technicians.	Introduced 2/7/2022