



General Assembly

February Session, 2004

Raised Bill No. 5633

LCO No. 2233

02233 _____ PH_

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING VETERINARY TECHNICIANS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2004*) (a) For purposes of this
2 section:

3 (1) "Veterinary assistant" means a person who serves as an assistant
4 to a veterinarian or veterinary technician by providing (A) office
5 services, including, but not limited to, computer operations, client
6 contact, completion and organization of medical records and
7 community outreach, (B) basic care for animals, including, but not
8 limited to, cleaning cages and examination areas, feeding, changing
9 water dishes, monitoring animals recovering from surgery, bathing,
10 grooming, monitoring exercise activities of animals, laboratory and
11 radiology processing and surgical preparation and clean-up
12 procedures, and (C) under the direct supervision of a veterinarian or
13 veterinary technician, preparation of medications and vaccines,
14 packaging of dispensed drugs, performing injections and bandaging,
15 and handling parasiticides; and

16 (2) "Veterinary technician" means a person who meets any one of

17 the following:

18 (A) (i) Successful completion of a veterinary technology program
19 accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association, an
20 associate's or higher degree program in animal or biological sciences,
21 or not less than fifty per cent of the credits required for a degree of
22 doctor of veterinary medicine, surgery or dentistry, and (ii) has passed
23 the Veterinary Technician National Examination;

24 (B) (i) Certification as a veterinary technician in another state that
25 has requirements which are substantially similar to, or higher than,
26 those of this state, and (ii) has passed the Veterinary Technician
27 National Examination;

28 (C) Has been employed as a veterinary assistant and has passed the
29 Veterinary Technician National Examination; or

30 (D) On and after January 1, 2010, successful completion of a
31 veterinary technology program accredited by the American Veterinary
32 Medical Association and has passed the Veterinary Technician
33 National Examination.

34 (b) No licensed veterinarian shall delegate any duties requiring
35 specialized training to a veterinary assistant, except such veterinarian
36 may delegate duties relating to phlebotomy or radiology to a
37 veterinary assistant if the veterinary assistant has earned a certificate
38 or degree in phlebotomy or radiology after training provided through
39 a regionally accredited institution of higher education or a private
40 occupational school authorized by the Commissioner of Higher
41 Education pursuant to sections 10a-22a to 10a-22k, inclusive, of the
42 general statutes. Each veterinary assistant shall maintain certificates or
43 degrees attesting to such training for a minimum period of ten years
44 from the date of obtaining such certificate or degree. Such certificates
45 or degrees shall be made available for inspection by the Department of
46 Public Health not later than forty-eight hours after notification that the
47 department is investigating the work of a veterinary assistant.

48 (c) Each veterinary technician shall maintain certificates, degrees
49 and proof of passage of the Veterinary Technician National
50 Examination attesting to his or her status as a veterinary technician for
51 a minimum period of ten years from the date of obtaining such
52 certificate or degree or passage of such examination. Such certificates,
53 degrees and proof of passage shall be made available for inspection by
54 the Department of Public Health not later than forty-eight hours after
55 notification that the department is investigating the work of a
56 veterinary technician.

57 (d) No veterinary technician shall engage in any diagnosis or
58 prognosis, prescription of treatment, drugs, medications or appliances
59 or perform surgery.

60 (e) (1) Any veterinarian that allows a veterinary assistant to perform
61 the duties of a veterinary technician may be subject to disciplinary
62 action pursuant to section 20-202 of the general statutes.

63 (2) Any veterinarian that allows a veterinary technician to engage in
64 any diagnosis or prognosis, prescription of treatment, drugs,
65 medications or appliances, perform surgery or to work unsupervised,
66 may be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to section 20-202 of the
67 general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	October 1, 2004

Statement of Purpose:

To classify and differentiate veterinary technicians to whom veterinarians may delegate certain duties from veterinary assistants by recognizing higher educational standards for veterinary technicians.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]