

(Reprint of File No. 244)

Substitute House Bill No. 5531  
As Amended by House Amendment  
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
April 9, 1998

AN ACT CONCERNING EQUINE DENTISTRY.

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

1 Section 20-197 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
3 thereof:

4 No person shall practice veterinary medicine,  
5 surgery or dentistry until he has obtained a  
6 license as provided in section 20-199. A person  
7 shall be construed to practice veterinary  
8 medicine, surgery or dentistry, within the meaning  
9 of this chapter, who holds himself out as being  
10 able to diagnose, administer biologics for, treat,  
11 operate or prescribe for any animal or bird  
12 disease, pain, injury, deformity or physical  
13 condition, or who either offers or undertakes, by  
14 any means or methods, to diagnose, administer  
15 biologics for, treat, operate or prescribe for any  
16 animal or bird disease, pain, injury, deformity or  
17 physical condition. The euthanizing of animals in  
18 accordance with applicable state and federal drug  
19 laws by the Connecticut Humane Society AND THE  
20 FLOATING OF TEETH IN HORSES BY PERSONS EXPERIENCED  
21 IN THAT PRACTICE shall not be deemed to be the  
22 practice of veterinary medicine. FOR THE PURPOSES

23 OF THIS SECTION, "FLOATING TEETH" MEANS USING  
24 HAND-HELD RASPS TO REDUCE OR ELIMINATE SHARP OR  
25 UNEVEN EDGES ON A HORSE'S UPPER AND LOWER MOLARS  
26 TO AVOID INJURY TO THE TONGUE AND CHEEKS AND TO  
27 IMPROVE CHEWING FOOD, BUT DOES NOT INCLUDE  
28 TREATING DECAY, TUMORS OR EXTRACTING TEETH.

\* \* \* \* \*

"THE FOLLOWING FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND BILL ANALYSIS ARE PREPARED FOR THE BENEFIT OF MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SOLELY FOR PURPOSES OF INFORMATION, SUMMARIZATION AND EXPLANATION AND DO NOT REPRESENT THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR EITHER HOUSE THEREOF FOR ANY PURPOSE."

\* \* \* \* \*

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT - BILL NUMBER SHB 5531**

STATE IMPACT                      Potential Minimal Revenue Loss,  
   Potential Workload Decrease, see  
   explanation below

MUNICIPAL IMPACT                None

STATE AGENCY(S)                Department of Public Health

**EXPLANATION OF ESTIMATES:**

STATE IMPACT: Exempting teeth floating done by experienced individuals from the definition of the practice of veterinary medicine will result in a potential workload decrease for the Department of Public Health as the agency will no longer become involved in disciplinary actions. A potential minimal revenue loss may result as fines may no longer be collected from persons found to be in violation of current law.

Pursuant to Section 20-206(b) C.G.S., a person not licensed as a veterinarian who performs duties within the scope of practice of veterinary medicine shall be fined not more than \$300 or imprisoned for up to six months or both. It should be noted that to date no civil penalties have been collected from unlicensed persons performing equine tooth floating and there has not been any criminal court actions recorded in this area over the last two years.

House "A" defines "floating teeth" and has no associated fiscal impact.

\* \* \* \* \*

**OLR AMENDED BILL ANALYSIS**

sHB 5531(as amended by House "A")\*

**AN ACT CONCERNING EQUINE DENTISTRY**

**SUMMARY:** This bill allows people "experienced" in the practice of floating horse teeth to do so without violating the prohibition on the practice of veterinary medicine without a license. It defines "floating teeth" as using hand-held rasps to reduce or eliminate sharp or uneven edges on a horse's upper and lower molars to avoid injury to the tongue and cheeks and to improve chewing food but excludes treating decay or tumors or extracting teeth.

\*House Amendment "A" defines the practice of "floating teeth."

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 1998

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Change of Reference  
Voice vote

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute  
Yea 21 Nay 3