



North Dakota Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

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**Testimony of
Sara Lyons, DVM
On behalf of the North Dakota Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
To discuss SB2129 and the proposed amendments by the NDVMA
Before the Workforce Development Committee
January 30, 2025**

Senators Boschee and Powers,

The North Dakota Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners would like to express their appreciation for the opportunity to work with the North Dakota Veterinary Medical Association and North Dakota Veterinary Technician Association to discuss the proposed amendments to Senate Bill 2129. A very productive meeting was held on January 28, 2025 and the organizations were able to reach a consensus on the majority of the amendments. A summary of the discussion points and references to the relevant sections are listed below and a copy of the amended bill is provided for review.

Amendment 1 - FINAL DECISION ON LANGUAGE NEEDED

SECTION 1 (Page 1, lines 22-24 and Page 2, lines 1-2)

This definition has been discussed at length multiple times and agreement has not been reached. The goal of removing the term accredited and the name of the accrediting body was to allow for possible future changes in the name of the process or organization without having to make statutory changes. No change to the educational standards or requirements would be made, but the accrediting body would be named in Administrative Code.

The NDBVME felt that the term accredited may be acceptable if the accrediting body does not need to be named in statute. If accredited is used in the definition of approved program of veterinary medicine, that terminology should be repeated for the definition of approved program of veterinary technology as well for the sake of consistency.

Amendment 2 - APPROVE as amended

The term "foreign practitioner" appears in NDCC Ch. 43-51-01, so that term was used instead of practitioner for the sake of consistency.

Add to SECTION 1 (Page 4, line 1)

Amendments 11 and 12 – APPROVE as amended
SECTION 24 (Page 29, lines 24-31)

Amendment 3 - REMOVE

Language with similar intent was added upon discussion of Amendment 13, but this location was not found to be the appropriate place for such language.

Amendment 4 – APPROVE as amended

There have been comments from veterinarians with concern about the language in this subsection as proposed in the bill. The changes made reflect those concerns about having to continue treatment of a patient after a VCPR is terminated.

SECTION 2 (Page 7, lines 24-29)

Amendment 5 - REMOVE

Telehealth includes teletriage and teleadvice, which are not considered to be the practice of veterinary medicine and therefore do not require regulation.

Amendment 6 – APPROVE as amended

The intent of this exception is to allow someone to present continuing education who is qualified to do so but may not be licensed in this state or another jurisdiction.

SECTION 14 (Page 18, lines 12-16)

Amendment 7 – APPROVE as amended

The intent of this exception is to allow someone to present continuing education who is qualified to do so but may not be licensed in this state or another jurisdiction.

SECTION 15 (Page 19, line 32 and Page 20, lines 33-34)

Amendment 8 – FINAL DECISION ON LANGUAGE NEEDED

This section was modified to allow specific rules regarding a possible treatment and monitoring program to be addressed in Administrative Code. Currently, veterinarians and veterinary technicians are not part of the NDPHP and the board does not have an approved treatment and monitoring program.

SECTION 17 (Page 24, lines 1-5)

SECTION 17 (Page 24, lines 6-19) - STRIKE

Amendment 9 - FINAL DECISION ON LANGUAGE NEEDED

This section was added to allow for addressing the situation of self-reporting differently than the process of addressing a complaint.

Add SECTION 18 (Page 25, lines 1-30 and Page 26, lines 31-49)

Amendment 10 - REMOVE

Authority for the board to collect fees exists in NDCC Ch. 28-32-26.

Amendment 13 - FINAL DECISION ON LANGUAGE NEEDED

Since telemedicine is such a new and evolving area, the consensus was to provide framework in statute for the use of telemedicine and address specific situations or details within Administrative Code. The creation of the two new sections provides clarification for what constitutes the practice of veterinary medicine the use of telemedicine by foreign practitioners. The language used is similar to existing statute (NDCC 43-51-02 and 43-51-03).

Amend SECTION 25 (Page 30, lines 1-23)

Add SECTION 27 (Page 30, lines 31-32 and Page 31, lines 33-37)

Add SECTION 28 (Page 31, lines 38-45)

Amendment 14 (NEWLY PROPOSED BY THE NDBVME, NDVMA, and NDVTA) – APPROVE

There have been many comments by individuals that provide animal care services other than veterinary medicine. The concern is that with the addition of the term “complementary, integrative, and alternative therapies” within the definition of the practice of veterinary medicine. The board did not anticipate this response, as there was no intent to change current practices or standards of practice. The intent was to encompass all areas of veterinary medicine within the definition. This amendment is in response to the comments that have been received and should clarify exceptions to the practice of veterinary medicine that are allowed. The board does feel that it needs to be made clear that these individuals are not allowed to diagnose, prescribe or treat.

Add to SECTION 1 (Page 1, lines 16-19)

Add to SECTION 14 (Page 19, lines 3-11)

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss these amendments today. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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