



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 provide a proposed amendment to SB2129
Before the Workforce Development Committee
February 14, 2025**

Senator Wobbema and members of the committee,

My name is Dr. Sara Lyons, and I am the Executive Secretary for the North Dakota Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners. I am here today to propose an amendment to SB2129 relating to the previous committee discussion around the use of the term 'immoral'.

The board did not have discussion about changing this terminology in any previous meetings. The changes to this section were made to update the language to provide clarity and consistency and to ensure that both veterinary medicine and veterinary technology were addressed.

The board appreciates the committee bringing this concern to their attention. After hearing comments from the committee and reviewing language in other North Dakota occupational statutes, the board would propose amending the language as follows.

SECTION 16 (Page 21, lines 21-24)

d. ~~Immoral, Engaging in~~ unprofessional, ~~or dishonorable~~ conduct ~~manifestly disqualifying the licenseeveterinarian or veterinary technician from practicing veterinary medicine or veterinary technology as defined by the rules adopted by the board, or violating the code of ethics adopted by the board by rule.~~

Currently, Administrative Code 87-05-02 specifies areas of unprofessional conduct regarding the practice of veterinary medicine. The board does plan to revise 87-05-02 to address unprofessional conduct within the practice of veterinary technology as well. There are currently no specific guidelines in statute or rules or within SB2129 regarding immoral or dishonorable conduct. The board has referred to the American Veterinary Medical Association Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics when discussing previous complaints as a widely accepted code of ethics for the practice of veterinary medicine. The National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America also has a published Code of Ethics for the practice of veterinary technology.

This proposed amendment and creation of a code of ethics in Administrative Code or citations to the AVMA Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics and NAVTA Code of Ethics would provide specific language and guidelines and should satisfy the concerns that have been brought forth.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Lindy West, DVM
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