

NEVADA

PROPOSED REGULATION OF THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

LCB File No. R083-22

August 16, 2022

EXPLANATION – Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.

AUTHORITY: §§ 1, 2, and 4, NRS 638.070 and 638.124; § 3, NRS 638.070, 638.122, and 638.124.

A REGULATION relating to veterinary medicine; establishing requirements relating to college and continuing education coursework for certain applicants for registration as a veterinary technician in training or for a license to practice as a veterinary technician; revising certain requirements relating to the qualification of certain applicants for registration as a veterinary technician in training or for a license to practice as a veterinary technician; extending certain duties imposed on supervising veterinarians regarding the supervision of licensed veterinary technicians to the supervision of veterinary technicians in training and veterinary assistants, and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law authorizes the Nevada State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners to adopt regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of law relating to veterinary medicine and requires the Board to adopt regulations pertaining to and limiting the activities of veterinary technicians. (NRS 638.070, 638.124)

Section 1 of this regulation requires an applicant for registration as a veterinary technician in training or an applicant for a license to practice as a veterinary technician, who qualifies to apply for such registration or licensure, in part because he or she received a bachelor of science degree, to receive a score of 300 points or more as determined by a review of his or her official transcripts and proof of satisfactory completion of any qualifying in-person continuing education courses the applicant completed. **Section 1** establishes: (1) the number of points an applicant will receive for each semester unit completed, each quarter unit completed, and each hour of continuing education completed; and (2) additional requirements relating to such courses and the number of points an applicant is eligible to receive. **Section 1** additionally requires an applicant to provide with his or her application: (1) an official transcript from each school at which the applicant completed a college course as part of his or her bachelor of science degree; (2) the

course description or syllabus for each college course or continuing education course to be considered for scoring; and (3) proof of satisfactory completion for each qualifying continuing education course the applicant completed.

Existing regulations require a person who wishes to be registered as a veterinary technician in training to satisfy certain requirements, including participating in training while on the job and acquiring experience that is commensurate with the duties of his or her employment. (NAC 638.0525) **Section 2** of this regulation provides that such training and experience must be documented in writing by each supervising veterinarian or licensed veterinary technician who supervises the person while he or she is participating in such training and acquiring such experience. **Section 2** also newly authorizes a person to be registered as a veterinary technician in training if he or she has received a bachelor of science degree and: (1) completed at least 1,000 hours of work experience at one or more veterinary facilities; and (2) satisfied the requirements set forth in **section 1**.

Existing regulations require an applicant for a license to practice as a veterinary technician to submit to the Executive Director of the Board satisfactory proof that he or she has: (1) received a degree as a veterinary technician from certain accredited colleges; (2) received a bachelor of science degree in an area related to animal science or another approved area; or (3) completed an approved accelerated program for veterinary technicians. (NAC 638.0527) **Section 3** of this regulation removes the requirement that a bachelor of science degree must have been in an area related to animal science or another approved area and instead requires the applicant to satisfy the requirements set forth in **section 1**. **Section 3** also newly authorizes an applicant to submit satisfactory proof that he or she received a degree from outside the United States that has been reviewed and approved by the Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence.

Existing regulations require an applicant for a license to practice as a veterinary technician who received a bachelor of science degree or completed an approved accelerated program for veterinary technicians to submit proof of having completed at least 4,000 hours of supervised clinical experience in a veterinary facility that is verified by an actively practicing veterinarian. (NAC 638.0527) **Section 3** specifies that a veterinary facility in which such supervised clinical experience was completed must be located in the United States, and the verification of such supervised clinical experience must be made by one or more actively practicing veterinarians who supervised the applicant.

Existing regulations impose certain duties on supervising veterinarians regarding the supervision of licensed veterinary technicians. (NAC 638.057) **Section 4** of this regulation extends such duties imposed on supervising veterinarians to the supervision of veterinary technicians in training and veterinary assistants.

Section 1. Chapter 638 of NAC is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. An applicant for registration as a veterinary technician in training or an applicant for a license to practice as a veterinary technician who has received a bachelor of science degree in accordance with subparagraph (3) of paragraph (g) of subsection 2 of NAC 638.0525 or paragraph (b) of subsection 2 of NAC 638.0527, as applicable, must:

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(a) Receive a score of 300 points or more, as determined pursuant to this section, based upon a review of his or her official transcripts and proof of satisfactory completion of any continuing education courses that meet the requirements of subparagraph (3) of paragraph (b) of subsection 1; and

(b) Include with his or her application:

(1) An official transcript from each school at which the applicant completed a college

course as part of his or her bachelor of science degree.

(2) The course description or syllabus for each college course or continuing education

course to be considered for scoring. For a college course to be considered for scoring, the applicant must have earned a grade of not less than a C- in the course.

(3) Proof of satisfactory completion for each in-person continuing education course the applicant completed that was offered by a provider approved by the Registry of Approved Continuing Education of the American Association of Veterinary State Boards.

2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, the total points an applicant receives for the purposes of paragraph (a) of subsection 1 will be determined as follows:

(a) For each semester unit completed, the applicant will receive 15 points.

(b) For each quarter unit completed, the applicant will receive 10 points.

(c) For each continuing education course that meets the requirements of subparagraph (3)

of paragraph (b) of subsection 1, the applicant will receive 1 point for each hour of continuing education completed.

3. Of the 300 or more points an applicant is required to receive pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 1, the applicant:

(a) Must receive at least 100 points for courses specifically related to animal sciences; and

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(b) May not receive more than 200 points for courses in the basic sciences.

Sec. 2. NAC 638.0525 is hereby amended to read as follows:

638.0525 1. A person may perform the tasks of a veterinary technician under the immediate supervision of a supervising veterinarian or licensed veterinary technician while the person is receiving the training and experience required by paragraph (h) of subsection 2 if he or she is registered with the Board pursuant to this section.

2. To be registered as a veterinary technician in training, a person must:

- (a) Submit to the Board an application on a form prescribed by the Board;
- (b) Submit to the Board a letter of recommendation written by the veterinarian in charge of the **veterinary** facility where the person is employed or will be employed;
- (c) Be 18 years of age or older;
- (d) Have a high school diploma or equivalent certificate;
- (e) Be of good moral character;
- (f) Be a citizen of the United States or lawfully entitled to remain and work in the United States;
- (g) Be:
 - (1) A fourth-year student enrolled in a 4-year program, a second-year student enrolled in a 2-year program or a student enrolled in an accelerated program and the program of training must be accredited by the Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities of the American Veterinary Medical Association or be approved by the Board; **[or]**
 - (2) A person who has graduated from a program of training described in subparagraph (1) and is scheduled to take, or has taken but not yet received a score for, the Veterinary Technician National Examination; **or**

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(3) A person who has received a bachelor of science degree and has:

(I) Completed at least 1,000 hours of work experience at one or more veterinary facilities; and

(II) Satisfied the requirements of section 1 of this regulation;

(h) Participate in training while on the job and acquire experience that is commensurate with the duties of his or her employment **[.], which must be documented in writing, on a form provided by the Board, by each supervising veterinarian or licensed veterinary technician who supervises the person while he or she is participating in such training and acquiring such experience;** and

(i) Pay to the Board the fee required pursuant to NAC 638.035.

3. After confirming that an applicant complies with all the requirements of subsection 2, the Executive Director of the Board shall, unless he or she has good cause to deny the registration, issue a letter of registration for a veterinary technician in training to the veterinarian in charge of the **veterinary** facility where the trainee is employed or will be employed.

4. A registration issued pursuant to this section between:

(a) January 1 and August 31 of any year expires on September 1 of the next subsequent year; and

(b) September 1 and December 31 of any year expires on September 1 of the year immediately following the next subsequent year,

Unless the Board grants an extension of the period of registration.

Sec. 3. NAC 638.0527 is hereby amended to read as follows:

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638.0527 1. In addition to the requirements of NRS 638.122, an applicant for a license to practice as a veterinary technician must submit to the Executive Director of the Board proof that he or she has passed:

(a) The Veterinary Technician National Examination; or

(b) Any other examination approved for this purpose by the Board pursuant to NRS 638.123. 2.

In addition to the requirements of subsection 1, an applicant for a license to practice as a

veterinary technician must submit to the Board satisfactory proof that the applicant has:

(a) Received a degree as a veterinary technician from a college accredited by the American

Veterinary Medical Association or the appropriate state agency in the state where the college is located;

(b) Received a bachelor of science degree ; **[in an area related to an animal science or in another area approved by the Board; or]**

(c) **Received a degree from outside the United States that has been reviewed and approved by the Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence administered by the American Association of Veterinary State Boards; or**

(d) Completed an accelerated program for veterinary technicians approved by the Board. 3. Each applicant who received **[a]** :

(a) A bachelor of science degree **[in an area related to an animal science described in]**

pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 2 or completed an accelerated program **as** described in paragraph **[(c)] (d)** of subsection 2 must submit, on a form provided by the Board, proof of completion of at least 4,000 hours of supervised clinical experience in a veterinary facility **located in the United States** that is verified by **[an] one or more** actively practicing **[veterinarian.] veterinarians who supervised the applicant.** Not less than 2,001 hours of that

supervised clinical experience must have been earned within the 5 years immediately preceding the date on which the applicant submitted his or her application.

(b) A bachelor of science degree pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 2 must satisfy the requirements of section 1 of this regulation.

4. Each application for a license to practice as a veterinary technician must include:

(a) One letter of recommendation from a person associated with the practice of veterinary medicine; and

(b) A letter of good standing from the licensing agency of each state in which the applicant is licensed or has been licensed, if any. Each such letter must, if applicable, include detailed information concerning any disciplinary action which has been taken against the applicant or which is pending in that state.

Sec. 4. NAC 638.057 is hereby amended to read as follows:

638.057 1. **[The] A** supervising veterinarian:

(a) Is responsible for determining the competency of the licensed veterinary technician ,

veterinary technician in training or veterinary assistant under his or her supervision to perform delegated tasks of animal health care.

(b) Shall ensure that the licensed veterinary technician, **veterinary technician in training or veterinary assistant** performs the tasks of animal health care delegated to the licensed veterinary technician , **veterinary technician in training or veterinary assistant** in a manner which is consistent with good veterinary medical practice.

(c) Shall make all decisions relating to the diagnosis, treatment, management and future disposition of **[the] an** animal.

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(d) Shall examine **[the]** **an** animal before delegating any tasks to the licensed veterinary technician **[.]** , **veterinary technician in training or veterinary assistant**. The examination must be conducted at such time as good veterinary medical practice requires, consistent with the particular task of animal health care which is delegated.

(e) Is responsible for ensuring that **[unlicensed]** :

(1) Unlicensed personnel do not perform duties that are specific to licensed veterinary technicians or licensed veterinarians **[.]** ;

(2) A person does not perform tasks as a veterinary technician in training unless the

person is registered pursuant to NAC 638.0525; and

(3) A person does not perform tasks as a veterinary assistant except as provided in NAC

638.0602 and 638.06025.

2. A supervising veterinarian who does not comply with the requirements of this section may be subject to disciplinary action.

