

Legislative Analysis



EMERGENCY VETERINARIAN LICENSE

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House Bill 4726 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Luke Meerman
Committee: Regulatory Reform
Complete to 6-7-21

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4726 would add a new section to Part 188 (Veterinary Medicine) of Article 15 (Occupations) of the Public Health Code to allow a veterinarian or veterinarian technician licensed in another state who meets certain conditions to obtain an emergency license, without charge, to practice veterinarian medicine during a declared emergency or an animal cruelty case involving many animals. (A similar provision is included in House Bill 4912.)

Under the bill, during a *qualified state of emergency* or to respond to a large-scale animal cruelty case, the Michigan Board of Veterinary Medicine could grant a license to engage in the practice of veterinary medicine or practice as a veterinary technician for up to 90 days to an individual who meets all of the following requirements:

- The individual is authorized to practice in another state that maintains licensing standards substantially equivalent to Michigan's.
- The individual establishes that no disciplinary proceedings are pending against him or her before a similar licensing board in another state.
- The individual establishes that no licensure sanctions are in force against him or her in another state at the time of application.
- The individual would not receive any direct or indirect payment or compensation for the services, except from Michigan, the federal government, or a nonprofit organization.

Qualified state of emergency would mean a state of disaster or state of emergency declared under the Emergency Management Act or 1976 PA 390 (known as the emergency powers of the governor act) that has an impact on animals.

The board would have to grant the temporary license within 48 to 72 hours of receiving a completed application and could not charge a fee for such a license.

Proposed MCL 333.18811a

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 4726 would not be anticipated to have a significant fiscal impact on any unit of state or local government. The provision in the bill prohibiting the assessment of a fee for a 90-day veterinary medicine or technician license may reduce state revenue associated with such licensure (which is deposited into the Health Professions Regulatory Fund), but

given the limited number of cases in which these licenses would apply, the revenue reduction would likely be modest.

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