



State Legislative Update

February 2021

This issue of the State Legislative Update includes select summaries of bills and regulations introduced in February and tracked by AVMA Division of State Advocacy. A comprehensive report of legislative and regulatory activity relating to veterinary medicine in 2020 can be viewed [here](#). For more information, contact Mr. Cody Corcelius, Policy Analyst, AVMA Division of State Advocacy (wcorcelius@avma.org).

Courtroom animal advocates

The **Florida** legislature is again considering legislation ([FL HB 1003/FL SB 1316](#)) which would allow a court to appoint an advocate to represent the interests of an animal, whether living or dead, in any prosecution regarding the welfare, care, or custody of the animal. Last year, **New Jersey** introduced a similar bill ([NJ S 2868/NJ A 4533](#)) that would authorize a court to appoint an advocate to represent the best interests of the animal in certain criminal cases, which is making its way through the legislative process.

Illinois ([IL SB 153](#)), **New York** ([NY S 3525/NY A 5315](#)), and **Rhode Island** ([RI HB 5577](#)) legislatures are also considering bills that would allow a court to appoint a separate advocate in any proceeding regarding welfare of an animal, although these bills allow for representation in the interests of justice.

Note: *In the interest of the animal* is a very different legal standard than *in the interest of justice*. *In the interest of justice* includes notions of fairness and the interest of the owner, while *in the interest of the animal* is an attempt to require courts to apply the same types of standards as they would for a child.

Existing laws in **Connecticut** ([C.G.S.A. § 54-86n](#) adopted in 2016) and **Maine** ([MRSA §4016, sub-§1-A](#) adopted last year) allow for a court to appoint an advocate to represent the interests of justice in proceedings regarding the welfare or custody of a cat or dog. Current law in **Rhode Island** ([RI Gen L § 4-1-31](#) adopted in 2012) allows for designation of a veterinarian from the state Department of Environment Management or an agent from the Rhode Island Society of the Prevention of Cruelty for Animals to act as animal advocates.

Education

New York's [NY S 4084](#) would establish a new rural loan repayment fund for veterinarians who make a two-year commitment to practice livestock medicine and other specialties in designated eligible "rural" tracts or counties. A **Wyoming** bill ([WY SF 93](#)) would impose a new service requirement on veterinary students from Wyoming who take part in the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) program.

Meanwhile, the **Utah** legislature passed a measure ([UT HB 1](#)) to fund the Utah State University School of Veterinary Medicine.

Marijuana and cannabis use

Legislation in **California** ([CA AB 384](#)) would require the Veterinary Medical Board to adopt guidelines for veterinarians to follow when recommending cannabis within the veterinarian-client-patient relationship and prohibit the veterinary medical board from disciplining a veterinarian who recommends the use of cannabis on an animal for medicinal purposes.

Similarly, **Nevada** legislation ([NV AB 101](#)) would allow a veterinarian to administer a product containing hemp or CBD or recommend to the owner the use of such a product to treat a condition of the animal and prohibit the Nevada State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners from taking disciplinary action against a licensed veterinarian based on the administration or recommendation of one of these products.

A **Rhode Island** bill ([RI SB 252](#)) would allow a licensed veterinarian to provide an animal that is certified by a veterinary practitioner as having a debilitating medical condition with a written certification for medical marijuana. A written certification is a statement signed by a practitioner stating that, in the practitioner's professional opinion, the potential benefits of the medical use of marijuana would likely outweigh the health risks for the patient.

Currently there are no cannabis-derived or -related products approved for use in animals. FDA has indicated they consider these products to be unapproved new animal drugs and has sent warning letters to manufacturers of CBD products. State law that allows veterinarians to recommend or administer CBD products that are currently illegally marketed products under the federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic act may put them in conflict with federal law and may pose a risk for regulatory enforcement action and in the context of malpractice litigation. More information on the regulatory status of cannabis, cannabis-derived, and cannabis-related products can be found [here](#).

Pet insurance

A **California** bill ([CA AB 553](#)) would require a pet insurance policy to provide full coverage for a sterilization surgery and the veterinary expenses associated with, or arising from, the sterilization surgery. Also, the bill would expand the definition of veterinary expenses so that costs associated with medical advice, diagnosis, care, or treatment provided by a person working under the direction of a veterinarian would now be covered, in addition to that provided by a veterinarian.

Pharmaceuticals and Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs

An **Alaska** bill ([AK HB 91](#)) would exempt veterinarians from the requirements of the controlled substance prescription database, while the **West Virginia** legislature is considering [WV HB 2262](#) to remove the requirement that a veterinarian monitor the controlled substance monitoring database.

New York's [NY S 4247](#) would allow a veterinarian to obtain and maintain compounded medications as "office stock" for administration and dispensing.

Veterinary technicians

Massachusetts legislation ([MA HD 2330/MA SD 1897](#)) would establish the criteria and regulations by which veterinary technicians would be licensed and registered and the duties which supervising, Massachusetts-licensed veterinarians could assign to licensed veterinary technicians and to non-licensed veterinary assistants.

A **West Virginia** bill ([WV HB 2344](#)) would change the title of Registered Veterinarian Technicians to Registered Veterinary Nurses.

Animal Abuse Cruelty			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Kansas	KS HB 2364	Would, for the purposes of the crime of cruelty to animals, define “torture” as including, but not be limited to, confining or restricting an animal in a way that is likely to cause death.	Introduced 2/11/21
Massachusetts	MA HD 2247 MA SD 1645	Would prohibit owning or keeping a domestic animal, including livestock, in “cruel conditions” which include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exposure to excessive animal waste, garbage, non-potable water, excessive noxious odors that create a health threat to people or animals, dangerous objects or other animals that could injure or kill an animal upon contact; and 2. Lack of protection when wind or environmental or weather conditions pose an adverse risk to the health or safety of the animal based on the animal’s species, age, or physical condition. 	Introduced 2/17/2021
New York	NY A 4740 NY A 4793	Would make aggravated neglect of companion animals a felony.	Introduced 2/8/2021
New York	NY A 5309	Would increase the penalty for multiple convictions of torturing, killing or failing to provide sustenance to an animal to a felony, if convicted within five years from the date of a prior conviction.	Introduced 2/10/2021
New York	NY A 5823 NY S 5023	Would require a veterinarian who reasonably and in good faith suspects that a companion animal's injury, illness, or condition is the result of animal cruelty to report the incident and disclose records concerning the companion animal's condition and treatment. Existing law allows voluntary reporting.	Introduced 2/25/2021 2/22/2021

Animal Advocate Court			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Florida	FL HB 1003 FL SB 1316	Would allow the court to appoint an advocate to represent the interests of the animal, whether living or dead, in any prosecution or any other civil or criminal proceeding regarding the welfare, care, or custody of an animal.	Introduced 2/16/2021
Illinois	IL SB 153	Would: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allow the court to appoint a licensed attorney-at-law or law student as a special advocate to assist the court to represent the interests of justice regarding the health or safety of the cat or dog; and 2. Provide that the advocate may consult any person with information that could aid the court and review records relating to the condition of the cat or dog and the defendant's actions, including, records from veterinarians. 	Introduced 2/9/2021

New York	NY S 4248 NY A 5775	Would require the court to consider the best interest of animal when awarding the possession of a companion animal in a divorce or separation proceeding.	Introduced 2/3/2021 2/25/2021
New York	NY S 3525 NY A 5315	Would allow the court to appoint a separate advocate in any proceeding regarding welfare of an animal to represent the interests of justice.	Introduced 1/30/2021
New York	NY A 5779	Would require a veterinarian who reasonably and in good faith suspects that a companion animal's injury, illness, or condition is the result of animal cruelty to report the incident and disclose records concerning the companion animal's condition and treatment. Existing law allows voluntary reporting.	Introduced 2/25/2021
Rhode Island	RI HB 5577	Would allow a civil or criminal court to appoint pro bono attorneys and supervised law students to act as animal advocates in animal cruelty and abuse cases to promote the interests of justice.	Introduced 2/12/2021

Animal Disease | Vaccination

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Illinois	IL HB 3634	Would add a second veterinarian, one of whom must be a practicing Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, to the Lyme Disease Task Force.	Introduced 2/19/2021
Illinois	IL HB 2177	Would require every dog to have a second rabies vaccination within one year of the first vaccination.	Introduced 2/16/2021
Illinois	IL SB 2059	Would: 1. Provide that, if a bite occurs from an animal exempt from rabies vaccinations, the exempt animal would be treated as an unvaccinated animal and, if a rabies titer has been administered, the animal would be treated as a vaccinated animal; and 2. Mandate, if the animal is exempt, the animal would be re-examined by a licensed veterinarian on no less than an annual basis and be vaccinated against rabies as soon as the animal's health permits or if deemed necessary by a rabies titer.	Introduced 2/26/2021
Minnesota	MN HF 888	Would require the Board of Animal Health to use live-animal testing methods, to the extent possible, to surveil farmed Cervidae herds for the presence of chronic wasting disease (CWDF) and require the Board to consider relevant test results from other states when determining a herd's CWD status.	Introduced 2/8/21
New Hampshire	NH HB 532	Would: 1. Create a database for animal health records; 2. Establish a fee on the submission of animal health certificates and on rabies vaccinations; and 3. Require veterinarians to send a copy of the rabies vaccination certificate to the department of agriculture, markets, and food.	Introduced 1/12/2021

Companion Animals

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Massachusetts	MA SD 1514	Would require any commercial boarding or training kennel actively used for day care services to ensure continuous supervision of all animals.	Introduced 2/17/2021
Massachusetts	MA HD 2757	Would require all dogs that are deemed as dangerous to have a mandatory evaluation and regular meetings as prescribed by a veterinary behaviorist, non-veterinary behaviorist, or a veterinarian that is familiar with and uses methods that follow the position statements of the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior.	Introduced 2/18/2021

		If the behaviorist/veterinarian believes the dog would benefit from training, they would recommend a trainer who is credentialed by either the Association of Professional Dog Trainers or the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants.	
Massachusetts	MA HD 3356	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regulate commercial boarding and training kennels; and 2. Establish a committee to advise the commissioner of agricultural resources on issues including appropriate training for kennel staff. 3. One member of the committee would be a veterinarian or member of a veterinary medical association organized in the commonwealth. 	Introduced 2/19/2021

COVID-19			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
North Dakota	ND HB 1271	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish that an employer is immune from civil liability for an act or omission resulting in a compensable injury to an employee sustained from exposure or potential exposure to COVID-19 if the act or omission was in substantial compliance or was consistent with a federal or state statute, regulation, or order, or a municipal ordinance or mayoral order or directive related to COVID-19 which was applicable to the employer or activity at issue at the time of the alleged exposure or potential exposure; and 2. Redefines a mental or psychological condition caused by a work-related injury to mean a mental or psychological condition caused by a single work-related traumatic event, a series of work-related traumatic events, or a period of high work-related stress or anxiety likely to result in injury. 	Failed 2/3/21
Oregon	OR SB 771	Would prohibit requiring an employee to obtain a COVID vaccine.	Introduced 2/18/21
Pennsylvania	PA SB 285	Would authorize eligible healthcare providers, including veterinarians, who receive training in COVID-19-approved vaccines to administer the vaccines.	Introduced 2/26/2021

Education			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Minnesota	MN SF 1020	<p>Would regulate continuing education sponsors and instructors by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prohibiting coordinators and instructors from selling or soliciting the services or practices of a business; and 2. Allowing coordinators and instructors to display a company logo or branding; establish a trade show or conference booth outside the classroom where the educational content would be delivered; and distribute any print or electronic advertisement for a good or service in the classroom during a break in the delivery of the educational content. 	Introduced 2/15/21
Missouri	MO HB 6	Would appropriate \$120,000 for the veterinary student loan repayment program.	Introduced 2/24/21
New York	NY S 4084	Would establish the veterinarians across rural New York state student loan repayment fund for certain veterinarians that make a two-year commitment to practice in a tract or county defined by the health resources and services administration as being "rural" or eligible for a rural health grant.	Introduced 2/2/2021

Utah	UT HB 1	Appropriates \$5,262,600 for the Utah State University School of Veterinary Medicine.	Enacted 2/4/21
Wyoming	WY SF 93	Would include veterinary medicine students under Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) repayment program requirements.	Introduced 2/5/21

Emergency | First Responders

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Florida	FL HB 697	Would: 1. Allow licensed life support services to transport injured police canines; and 2. Authorize a paramedic or an emergency medical technician to provide emergency medical care to the injured police canine and provided immunity from criminal and civil liability.	Introduced 2/2/2021
Massachusetts	MA SD 1177	Would authorize EMS personnel to provide emergency treatment to a police dog injured in the line of duty, and transport such police dog by ambulance, to a veterinary clinic or veterinary hospital equipped to provide emergency treatment.	Introduced 2/12/2021
Minnesota	MN HF 568 MN SF 952	Would permit certified emergency medical personnel to provide emergency medical care to police dogs without a license to practice veterinary medicine in Minnesota.	Introduced 2/1/21
Rhode Island	RI HB 5622	During a declared emergency, would allow volunteer health practitioners, including veterinarians, and organizations from other states to provide medical and veterinary services.	Introduced 2/18/2021

Equine

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
New York	NY A 4154	Would: 1. Prohibit the slaughter of race horses and race horse breeding stock; and 2. Require every racing horse to be Micro-chipped.	Introduced 2/1/2021
New York	NY A 5481	Would prohibit any person from slaughtering a horse for human consumption.	Introduced 2/19/2021

Feral Cats

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Illinois	IL SB 1673	Would allow the Department of Agriculture to provide guidance for the operation of programs for trapping, neutering or spaying, vaccination, and release of feral cats.	Introduced 2/26/2021
Rhode Island	RI HB 5462	Would state that the trapping and subsequent release of any unowned feral or free roaming cat for the purpose of spaying or neutering of the cat shall not be considered abandonment provided any medical or surgical procedures performed on those cats is performed by a licensed veterinarian.	Introduced 2/10/2021

Liability

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Iowa	IA HSB 170	Would provide that a licensed veterinarian is immune from administrative, civil, or criminal liability in investigations or proceedings involving the mistreatment of animals.	Introduced 2/1/21

Licensure			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Arkansas	<u>AR HB 1553</u> (<u>AR HB 1553</u>)	Would allow an individual, including a veterinarian or veterinary technician, to work in a profession following the completion of an approved apprenticeship program and fulfill licensing requirements.	Introduced 2/24/21
Massachusetts	<u>MA SD 851</u>	Would mandate the division of professional licensure to develop and implement an automatic license renewal system, which would notify licensed professionals of an upcoming license expiration date and offer the ability to automatically renew the license online, wherever possible.	Introduced 2/9/2021
Massachusetts	<u>MA HD 2297</u>	Would require an individual to obtain a license to be able to groom pets; licensure would require passing a test created by the Division of Animal Health of The Department of Agricultural Resources.	Introduced 2/17/2021

Livestock			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Colorado	<u>CO 8 CCR 1201-19</u>	Would remove the requirement that Colorado dairies be accredited TB-free and allow for voluntary accreditation.	Published 2/26/21
Iowa	<u>IA SF 302</u>	Based on an investigation of a complaint alleging livestock negligence, would allow a court to order the temporary disposition of the livestock. Prior to issuing the order, the law enforcement officer would have to provide the court with a statement signed by 2 veterinarians who visited the premises and examined the livestock. If removed livestock was returned to the responsible party, each veterinarian who signed a statement to remove the livestock would be subject to a fine of not less than \$1,000 and not more than \$5,000. Each livestock removed would be considered a separate offense.	Introduced 2/9/21
Utah	<u>UT SB 147</u>	Would prohibit farm owners and operators from confining egg-laying hens in an enclosure that is not a cage-free housing system or that has less usable floor space per hen than required by specific industry guidelines, with exceptions.	Introduced 2/1/21
West Virginia	<u>WV SB 195</u> <u>WV HB 2549</u>	Would authorize the Livestock Care Standards Board to promulgate a legislative rule relating to livestock care standards.	Introduced 2/11/2021

Marijuana Cannabis Hemp			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
California	<u>CA AB 384</u>	Would: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prohibit the Veterinary Medical Board from disciplining a veterinarian who recommends the use of cannabis on an animal for medicinal purposes, unless the veterinarian is employed by or has an agreement with a cannabis licensee; 2. Require the Veterinary Medical Board to adopt guidelines for veterinarians to follow when recommending cannabis within the veterinarian-client-patient relationship; 3. Revise the definitions of “cannabis products,” “cannabis concentrate,” and “edible cannabis product” to include products intended to be used for animal consumption; and 4. Define “animal” to mean any member of the animal kingdom other than humans, including fowl, fish, and reptiles, wild or domestic, whether living or dead, but would exclude livestock and food animals. 	Introduced 2/2/21
California	<u>CA AB 527</u>	Would expand the provisions authorizing the prescription, furnishing, dispensing, transfer, transportation, possession, or use of cannabidiol	Introduced 2/10/21

		products in accordance with federal law as changes are made to federal law, to include all products with cannabinoids, not just cannabidiol.	
Idaho	ID HB 126	Would regulate industrial hemp as allowed by federal law and allow production, processing, transportation, and research of industrial hemp in Idaho.	Introduced 2/11/21
Montana	MT LC 1157	Would amend the definition of commercial feed to include the use of hemp seed products for use as feed or for mixing in feed for a pet, specialty pet, or livestock.	Draft review 2/8/21
Nevada	NV AB 101	Would: 1. Allow a veterinarian to administer a product containing hemp or CBD which contains not more than 0.3% THC or recommend to the owner the use of such a product to treat a condition of the animal; and 2. Prohibit the Nevada State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners from taking disciplinary action against a licensed veterinarian or the facility in which a licensed veterinarian engages in the practice of veterinary medicine based on the administration or recommendation of such a product.	Introduced 2/8/21
Rhode Island	RI SB 252	Would allow a licensed veterinarian to provide an animal that is certified by a veterinary practitioner as having a debilitating medical condition with a written certification for medical marijuana. A written certification is a statement signed by a practitioner stating that, in the practitioner's professional opinion, the potential benefits of the medical use of marijuana would likely outweigh the health risks for the patient.	Introduced 2/10/2021

Pet Insurance

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
California	CA AB 553	Would: 1. Expand the definition of veterinary expenses to include costs associated with medical advice, diagnosis, care, or treatment provided by a person working under the direction of a veterinarian in addition to that provided by a veterinarian; and 2. Require a pet insurance policy provide full coverage for a sterilization surgery and the veterinary expenses associated with, or arising from, the sterilization surgery.	Introduced 2/10/21
New Jersey	NJ A 5397	Would require pet shops to display a notice concerning the availability of pet insurance which includes a link to the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance webpage addressing pet health insurers.	Introduced 2/23/21
Rhode Island	RI HB 5903	Would mandate that pet insurance policies provide notice in bold print of coverage exclusions and provide coverage for routine and preventative care and be allowed to provide coverage for wellness visits.	Introduced 2/24/2021

Pharmaceuticals | Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Alaska	AK HB 91	Would exempt veterinarians from the requirements of the controlled substance prescription database.	Introduced 2/18/2021
Arkansas	AR HB 1099	Would authorize the Veterinary Medical Examining Board to: 1. Promulgate rules outlining the use of telehealth and telemedicine; and 2. Issue restricted licenses to persons who graduate from accredited or approved colleges of veterinary medicine but have not passed	Enacted 2/23/21

		the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination, or its future equivalent, to practice under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian.	
Arkansas	AR HB 1107	Requires prescribers or dispensers, or both, to provide physical copies of written or electronic prescriptions upon request to validate data submitted to the program in order to evaluate the information reported by the program.	Enacted 2/4/21
Illinois	IL HB 3283	Would: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Require a veterinarian to provide, in person or through electronic means, consultation to the client each time a veterinarian initially prescribes, dispenses, or furnishes a veterinary prescription drug to an animal patient in an outpatient setting; 2. Require a veterinarian to provide available drug documentation if requested by the client; and 3. Allow a veterinarian to delegate to a certified veterinary technician or veterinary assistant the task of providing consultation and drug documentation. 	Introduced 2/19/2021
Illinois	IL HB 3720	Would: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Direct the Environmental Protection Agency, advised by the state board of pharmacy, to administer a drug and sharps waste stewardship program; and 2. Require covered entities, such as drug manufacturers and distributors, to implement stewardship plans. 	Introduced 2/19/2021
Massachusetts	MA SD 1482	Would mandate that only a dentist, nurse, physician, podiatrist, perfusionist, optometrist, or veterinarian could administer any controlled substance in schedule II, III, IV, V, or VI.	Introduced 2/17/2021
New York	NY S 4247	Would: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Permit a pharmacist to dispense drugs, including veterinary specific compounded medications, to a veterinarian; and 2. Allow a veterinarian to possess and keep in stock for administration and sale, such drugs pursuant to a non-patient specific regimen prescribed or ordered by any practitioner of veterinary medicine. 	Introduced 2/3/2021
West Virginia	WV HB 2262	Would remove the requirement that a veterinarian monitor the controlled substance monitoring database.	Introduced 2/10/2021

Scope of Practice

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Arkansas	AR HB 1142	Would recognize artificial insemination of livestock and animals as a routine animal husbandry practice.	Enacted 2/23/21
Massachusetts	MA HD 2097	Would define “Equine dental practitioner” as a person who is a veterinarian or who is certified by the international association of equine dentistry.	Introduced 2/16/2021
Massachusetts	MA HD 2098	Would: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allow the floating of teeth or removal of deciduous caps or erupted, non-displaced wolf teeth in horses by a licensed equine dental practitioner; 2. Define “floating teeth” as the application or use of any instrument, device, or scaler to any portion of the horse’s tooth to reduce or eliminate calculus, soft deposits, plaque, or the removal of enamel points and the smoothing, contouring, filing and scaling of tooth surfaces as well as removal of deciduous caps but does not include treating decay, tumors, or other procedures that invade the soft tissue in the mouth; and 	Introduced 2/16/2021

		3. Only allow controlled substances to be used by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.	
Massachusetts	MA SD 1433	Would prohibit declawing, onychectomy, or tendonectomy of a cat, unless completed for a therapeutic purpose.	Introduced 2/17/2021
Montana	MT SB 347 MT LC 3052	Would allow a person certified by the International Association of Equine Dentistry to provide teeth floating services, which includes the removal of enamel points and the smoothing, contouring, and leveling of dental arcades and incisors of equine and other farm animals.	Introduced 2/23/21
Rhode Island	RI HB 5616	Would prohibit declawing of a cat or other animal, unless a licensed veterinarian has determined that the procedure is necessary for a therapeutic purpose.	Introduced 2/18/2021

Small Business

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Florida	FL HB 1095	<p>Would mandate that a provider of companion animal cremation services provide, without charge, a written description of the services that the provider offers to, the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The owner of each deceased animal for whom the provider agrees to provide cremation services, or the person making cremation arrangements on the owner's behalf; 2. All veterinarians, pet shops, and other persons or entities known to the provider who refers animal owners or brings deceased animals to the provider regularly; and 3. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; and any other person, upon request. 	Introduced 2/17/2021
Massachusetts	MA SD 2295	Would make veterinarian non-compete restrictions void or unenforceable.	Introduced 2/19/2021

State Programs | Board of Veterinary Medicine

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
California	CA SB 344	Would establish a grant program for homeless shelters to provide basic veterinary services for pets owned by the homeless.	Introduced 2/9/21
Massachusetts	MA SD 1829	<p>Would establish an Animal Advisory Board to advise the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture, and members would include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The shelter and rescue coordinator at MDAR or their designee, who shall serve as chair; 2. A member of a small foster-based rescue; 3. A member of a larger animal welfare organization; 4. A member of a national animal welfare organization that provides interstate transport; 5. A veterinarian who is certified by the Association of Shelter Veterinarians; 6. A veterinarian experienced with companion animal work; 7. A veterinarian with livestock and/or farm experience; 8. A lawyer with animal welfare experience; and 9. An Animal Control Officer operating in the Commonwealth with at least five years of experience. 	Introduced 2/18/2021
Minnesota	MN HF 1137 MN SF 1162	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase the Board of Animal Health membership from 5 to 9 members who must be knowledgeable in animal agriculture, animal health, or pets and companion animals; and 	Introduced 2/15/21 Introduced 2/18/21

		2. Require the governor to appoint a veterinarian licensed in Minnesota, who is not a member, to be its executive director for a term of one year and until a successor qualifies.	
Utah	UT SB 237 (UT SB 237)	Would: 1. Address the methods by which an animal may be euthanized; and 2. Require an animal shelter to adopt a euthanasia policy and training program approved by a veterinarian.	Introduced 2/23/21

Taxes: Credits Exemptions Sale & Use			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
North Dakota	ND HB 1456	Would provide a sales tax exemption for materials used in the research and development of bioscience and biotechnology.	Failed 2/23/21
Rhode Island	RI SB 227	Would eliminate the sales tax on pet care services.	Introduced 2/10/2021
Wyoming	WY HB 168 (WY HB 168)	Would repeal sales and use tax exemptions for veterinary and other services.	Introduced 2/27/21

Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship Telemedicine			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Florida	FL HB 911 FL SB 1370	Would: 1. Allow a VCPR to be established in person, by telephone, or by other means consistent with the individual veterinarian's professional judgment; 2. Not require a physical examination for the veterinarian to assume responsibility for making medical judgments or providing treatment; and 3. Permit an employee, agent, or contractor of an animal control authority acting under the indirect supervision of a veterinarian to vaccinate impounded animals that would be transferred, rescued, fostered, adopted, or reclaimed by the owner.	Introduced 2/10/2021
North Dakota	ND State BVME pub. 2/9/21	Would: 1. Define telemedicine and set forth guidelines for its use; and 2. Propose changes to CE requirements and veterinary technician licensure regulations.	Introduced 2/9/21

Veterinary Technicians Veterinary Assistants			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Arizona	AZ S 1754	Would direct a regulating authority to establish criteria for granting licenses, certificates or registrations through apprenticeship programs, including veterinarians and veterinary technicians, and provide the following: 1. An applicant must complete a U.S. Department of Labor-approved or a Department of Economic Security-approved apprenticeship program in the professional area the applicant is seeking a licensure, certification or registration, either at a school licensed by Arizona or by training with a person who is licensed by Arizona who holds the same license, certificate or registration for which the applicant is applying; and 2. If the regulating authority requires completion of an exam for licensure, certification or registration, the applicant must successfully complete the exam. The passing score on the exam cannot discriminate between an applicant from an apprenticeship program and an applicant from a vocational or trade school.	Introduced 2/1/21

Massachusetts	MA HD 2330 MA SD 1897	Would create a subsidiary board for veterinary technology under the Board of Registration in Veterinary Medicine to: 1. Determine and establish the criteria and regulations by which veterinary technicians would be licensed and registered; and 2. Establish the duties which supervising, Massachusetts-licensed veterinarians could assign to licensed veterinary technicians, and to non-licensed veterinary assistants, consistent with good veterinary medical practice.	Introduced 2/17/2021
New York	NY A 4170	Would establish the position of licensed euthanasia technician.	Introduced 2/1/2021
West Virginia	WV HB 2344	Would change the definition of Registered Veterinarian Technicians from “technicians” to “nurses”.	Introduced 2/12/2021

Wildlife | Zoo Animals

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Alabama	AL SB 244	Would make it illegal to possess, sell, transfer, or breed a large wild cat, great ape, wolf, or non-native bear, with certain exceptions.	Introduced 2/23/2021
Massachusetts	MA HD 2477	Would define a “wildlife rehabilitator” as any person who is permitted as a state or federal wildlife rehabilitator and practices wildlife care without the direct or indirect supervision of a licensed veterinarian so far as a licensed veterinarian has issued a predetermined protocol developed with the standard of care as outlined by the licensed veterinarian in accordance to wildlife rehabilitation.	Introduced 2/17/2021