

HOUSE BILL NO. 4200

March 11, 2025, Introduced by Reps. Greene, Neyer and Kunse and referred to Committee on Regulatory Reform.

A bill to amend 1978 PA 368, entitled "Public health code," by amending sections 16287, 18811, and 18814 (MCL 333.16287, 333.18811, and 333.18814), section 16287 as amended by 2017 PA 22 and section 18811 as amended by 2006 PA 406, and by adding section 18818.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 16287. **(1)** The department, in consultation with a board,
2 shall promulgate rules to implement sections 16284 and 16285.

1 (2) Rules promulgated by the department in consultation with
2 the Michigan board of veterinary medicine under this section are
3 subject to section 18818.

4 Sec. 18811. (1) ~~A person~~ **Subject to section 18818, an**
5 **individual** shall not engage in the practice of veterinary medicine
6 unless licensed or otherwise authorized by this article.

7 (2) ~~After July 1, 1979, an~~ **An** individual shall not practice as
8 a veterinary technician without a license.

9 (3) A veterinary technician shall not diagnose animal
10 diseases, prescribe medical or surgical treatment, or perform as a
11 surgeon.

12 (4) The following words, titles, or letters or a combination
13 ~~thereof, of words, titles, or letters,~~ with or without qualifying
14 words or phrases, are restricted in use only to those ~~persons~~
15 **individuals** authorized under this part to use the terms and in a
16 way prescribed in this part: "veterinary", "veterinarian",
17 "veterinary doctor", "veterinary surgeon", "doctor of veterinary
18 medicine", "v.m.d.", "d.v.m.", ~~"animal technician", or "animal~~
19 ~~technologist".~~ **"licensed veterinary technician", or "licensed**
20 **veterinary technologist".**

21 Sec. 18814. An individual is not engaging in the practice of
22 veterinary medicine in this state who **meets any of the following:**

23 (a) Administers to livestock owned by that individual, except
24 when the title is vested in ~~him or her~~ **the individual** for the
25 purpose of circumventing this act.

26 (b) Conducts experimentation and scientific research in the
27 development of methods, techniques, or treatments directly or
28 indirectly applicable to the problems of medicine and who in
29 connection therewith uses animals.

1 (c) Conducts routine vaccination and pullorum testing of
2 poultry under supervision of the ~~national poultry improvement plan~~
3 **National Poultry Improvement Plan** as administered by the official
4 state agency and the United States ~~department of~~
5 ~~agriculture.~~ **Department of Agriculture.**

6 (d) Is a regularly employed veterinarian of the United States
7 ~~department of agriculture~~ **Department of Agriculture** or a full-time
8 veterinary food inspector while engaged in the inspection of
9 animals as food for human consumption.

10 (e) Conducts sample collection and activities as directed
11 through the Certified Swine Sample Collector Program or the United
12 States Swine Health Improvement Plan.

13 Sec. 18818. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section,
14 a veterinarian shall not engage in the practice of veterinary
15 medicine unless it is within the context of a veterinarian-client-
16 patient relationship. Subject to federal law, all of the following
17 requirements must be met to establish a veterinarian-client-patient
18 relationship:

19 (a) The veterinarian must assume responsibility for making
20 clinical judgments regarding the health of the animal and the need
21 for medical treatment and the animal's owner must have agreed to
22 follow the veterinarian's instructions.

23 (b) The veterinarian must have current knowledge of the animal
24 to initiate, at a minimum, a general or preliminary diagnosis of
25 the medical condition of the animal. A veterinarian may obtain
26 current knowledge of an animal for purposes of this subdivision
27 through any of the following means:

28 (i) Conducting an in-person examination of the animal.

29 (ii) Making a medically appropriate and timely visit to the

1 premises where the animal is kept or where a group of animals of
2 the owner is kept.

3 (2) Subject to this subsection and subsection (3) and except
4 as otherwise provided in this section, once a veterinarian-client-
5 patient relationship is established, a veterinarian may conduct a
6 consultation for an animal through telemedicine using real-time
7 interactive audio and visual electronic technology. All of the
8 following apply for purposes of a consultation through telemedicine
9 under this subsection:

10 (a) The veterinarian shall not conduct a consultation for an
11 animal through telemedicine if any of the following apply:

12 (i) The animal is not a companion animal, unless the
13 veterinarian has current knowledge of the animal through a
14 medically appropriate and timely visit described in subsection
15 (1) (b) .

16 (ii) The veterinarian is conducting the consultation to issue
17 an interstate certificate of veterinary inspection or a pet health
18 certificate.

19 (b) If the veterinarian uses any instrumentation or diagnostic
20 equipment in conducting the consultation, the instrumentation and
21 diagnostic equipment must be capable of electronically transmitting
22 any image and medical record.

23 (c) The veterinarian shall be readily available, or arrange
24 for emergency coverage, if the animal experiences an adverse
25 reaction or the treatment regimen for the animal fails.

26 (d) The owner of the animal may request an in-person follow-up
27 evaluation with the veterinarian. If the veterinarian cannot
28 perform an in-person follow-up evaluation of the animal, the
29 veterinarian shall provide the owner with a list of other

1 veterinarians who are geographically accessible to the owner.

2 (e) The veterinarian shall annually conduct at least 1 in-
3 person examination of the animal.

4 (3) If a veterinarian conducts a consultation for an animal
5 under subsection (2), the veterinarian may prescribe the animal
6 that was the subject of the consultation a drug under all of the
7 following conditions:

8 (a) The veterinarian shall not prescribe the animal more than
9 a 14-day supply of the drug with no refills. The veterinarian may
10 prescribe the animal 1 additional 14-day supply of the drug if the
11 veterinarian conducts another consultation under subsection (2) for
12 the animal. The veterinarian shall not issue any additional
13 renewals of the prescription for the animal unless the veterinarian
14 conducts an in-person examination of the animal.

15 (b) The veterinarian may notify the owner of the animal that
16 some prescription drugs may be available at a pharmacy and, on the
17 request of the animal's owner, send a prescription to a pharmacy of
18 the owner's choice.

19 (c) The veterinarian shall not prescribe a controlled
20 substance for the animal unless the veterinarian also performs an
21 in-person examination of the animal or makes a medically
22 appropriate and timely visit to the premises where the animal is
23 kept.

24 (d) The veterinarian shall comply with federal law and any
25 laws of this state for the prescribing of the drug, including, but
26 not limited to, section 16285.

27 (4) A veterinarian or an animal's owner may terminate a
28 veterinarian-client-patient relationship. A veterinarian may
29 terminate a veterinarian-patient-client relationship by notifying

1 the animal's owner that the veterinarian no longer wants to serve
2 the animal and the animal's owner. If a veterinarian terminates the
3 veterinarian-patient-client relationship when an animal that is the
4 subject of the relationship has an ongoing medical or surgical
5 condition, the veterinarian shall refer the animal's owner to
6 another veterinarian for the diagnosis, care, and treatment of the
7 animal and the veterinarian shall continue to provide lifesaving
8 support to the animal, as needed, for a reasonable amount of time
9 or until a new veterinarian-client-patient relationship is
10 established, whichever occurs first.

11 (5) In an emergency, a veterinarian may engage in the practice
12 of veterinary medicine through telemedicine without a veterinarian-
13 client-patient relationship until the animal can be seen in person
14 by a veterinarian. However, the veterinarian shall make a good-
15 faith effort to arrange an in-person visit as soon as practicable
16 to establish a veterinarian-client-patient relationship.

17 (6) A veterinarian may engage in the practice of veterinary
18 medicine through telemedicine without a veterinarian-client-patient
19 relationship if any of the following apply:

20 (a) The veterinarian renders or attempts to render, in good
21 faith, emergency or urgent care to an animal when its owner cannot
22 be identified.

23 (b) The animal is in the care or custody of an animal control
24 shelter or animal protection shelter regulated under 1969 PA 287,
25 MCL 287.331 to 287.340, and its owner cannot be identified.

26 (7) As used in this section:

27 (a) "Companion animal" means that term as defined in section
28 50b of the Michigan penal code, 1931 PA 328, MCL 750.50b.

29 (b) "Pet health certificate" means that term as defined in

1 section 1 of 1969 PA 287, MCL 287.331.

2 (c) "Telemedicine" means that term as defined in section
3 16283.

4 (d) "Veterinarian-client-patient relationship" means the
5 relationship meeting the requirements described in subsection (1).