

Senate Bill 76

By: Senators Black of the 8th, Wilkinson of the 50th, Harper of the 7th, Anderson of the 24th, Burke of the 11th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend various provisions of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated so as to redesignate
2 veterinary technicians as veterinary nurses; to amend Chapter 50 of Title 43 of the Official
3 Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to veterinarians and veterinary technicians, so as to
4 reenact the State Board of Veterinary Medicine, subject to appropriations; to provide for
5 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 The Official Code of Georgia Annotated is amended by replacing "veterinary technician"
9 with "veterinary nurse" wherever the former term occurs in:

- 10 (1) Code Section 4-11-17, relating to filing a report regarding animal cruelty and immunity;
- 11 (2) Code Section 43-50-3, relating to definitions regarding veterinarians and veterinary
12 technicians;
- 13 (3) Code Section 43-50-40, relating to renewal of licenses, reinstatement, waiver of fee,
14 continuing education, and inactive status;
- 15 (4) Code Section 43-50-41, relating to disciplinary action, subpoenas, judicial review,
16 reinstatement, investigatory powers, immunity, failure to appear, and voluntary surrender of
17 license;
- 18 (5) Code Section 43-50-44, relating to exemptions from licensing;
- 19 (6) Code Section 43-50-45, relating to unlawful acts, penalties, and injunctions;
- 20 (7) Code Section 43-50-51, relating to practice of veterinary technology by licensed
21 veterinary technician;
- 22 (8) Code Section 43-50-52, relating to application for license as veterinary technician,
23 qualifications, examination, renewal, applicants registered in other states, and board's
24 responsibility;
- 25 (9) Code Section 43-50-53, relating to administration of examinations, reexamination, and
26 reactivation;

- 27 (10) Code Section 43-50-54, relating to supervision required of veterinary technician and
 28 prohibited activities of technician;
- 29 (11) Code Section 43-50-55, relating to posting notice of use of licensed veterinary
 30 technicians and proper identification;
- 31 (12) Code Section 43-50-56, relating to veterinarian responsible for licensed veterinary
 32 technician's violations of limitations on duties; and
- 33 (13) Code Section 43-50-63, relating to posting notice of use of veterinary assistant and
 34 proper identification required.

35 SECTION 2.

36 Chapter 50 of Title 43, relating to veterinarians and veterinary technicians, is amended by
 37 repealing Code Section 43-50-20, relating to creation of State Board of Veterinary Medicine,
 38 members, qualifications, vacancies, expenses, meetings, and officers, and enacting a new
 39 Code Section 43-50-20 to read as follows:

40 "43-50-20.

41 (a) There shall be a State Board of Veterinary Medicine, the members of which shall be
 42 appointed by the Governor with the approval of the Secretary of State and confirmation by
 43 the Senate. The board shall consist of seven members, each appointed for a term of no
 44 more than five years or until his or her successor is appointed. Five members of the board
 45 shall be duly licensed veterinarians actually engaged in active practice for at least five
 46 years prior to appointment. The sixth member shall be appointed from the public at large
 47 and shall in no way be connected with the practice of veterinary medicine. The seventh
 48 member shall be a registered veterinary nurse who has been registered and actively
 49 engaged in the practice of veterinary technology or veterinary nursing for at least five years
 50 prior to appointment. The initial appointment of the veterinary nurse shall expire on June
 51 30 in the fifth calendar year after this subsection becomes effective; thereafter, successors
 52 shall be appointed for a term of five years. Those members of the State Board of
 53 Veterinary Medicine serving on the effective date of this subsection shall continue to serve
 54 as members of the board until the expiration of the term for which they were appointed.
 55 Thereafter, successors to such board members shall be appointed in accordance with this
 56 Code section. A majority of the board shall constitute a quorum.

57 (b) Vacancies due to death, resignation, removal, or otherwise shall be filled for the
 58 remainder of the unexpired term in the same manner as regular appointments. No person
 59 shall serve two consecutive five-year terms, but a person appointed for a term of less than
 60 five years may succeed himself or herself.

61 (c) Each member of the board shall be reimbursed as provided for in subsection (f) of
 62 Code Section 43-1-2.

63 (d) Any member of the board may be removed by the Governor after a hearing by the
64 board determines cause for removal.

65 (e) The board shall meet at least once each year at the time fixed by the board. Other
66 necessary meetings may be called by the president of the board by giving such notice as
67 shall be established by the board. Meetings shall be open and public except that the board
68 may meet in closed session as set forth in Code Section 50-14-3.

69 (f) At its annual meeting, the board shall organize by electing a president and such other
70 officers as may be required by the board. Officers of the board serve for terms of one year
71 and until a successor is elected, without limitation on the number of terms an officer may
72 serve. The president shall chair the board meetings.

73 (g) This Code section shall be subject to appropriations by the General Assembly."

74 **SECTION 3.**

75 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.