

HOUSE No. 01895

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Vincent A. Pedone

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act to establish a subsidiary board for veterinary technology.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Vincent A. Pedone

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

15th Worcester

HOUSE No. 01895

By Mr. Pedone of Worcester, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1895) of Pedone for legislation to establish a subsidiary board for veterinary technology under the Board of Registration in Veterinary Medicine Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act to establish a subsidiary board for veterinary technology.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Findings. The General Court finds:

2 (1) That veterinary technicians are integral members of a veterinary team; and

3 (2) That veterinary technicians provide consumer protection, public health and safety in
4 veterinary offices and in other areas of animal medical care and welfare; and

5 (3) That it is in the best interest of the Commonwealth to promote the advancement of
6 veterinary technicians, their management and professionalism so far as possible making use of
7 existing private and public training already in use in the Commonwealth or elsewhere for their
8 oversight.

9 SECTION 2. Chapter 13 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010 Official Edition, is

10 hereby amended by inserting after section 26 of chapter 13 the following new section:-

11 “SECTION 26A.

12 Subsidiary Board for Veterinary Technology under the Board of registration in Veterinary
13 Medicine.

14 Section 1. When used in this act these words and phrases shall be defined as follows:

15 1. “Veterinary Technology” the science and art of providing professional support to
16 veterinarians.

17 2. “Veterinary technician” a graduate of a two- or three-year AVMA-accredited program in
18 veterinary technology.

19 3. “Veterinary technologist” a graduate of a four-year baccalaureate AVMA-accredited
20 program in veterinary technology

21 4. “Veterinary Assistant” is the title sometimes used for individuals where training,
22 knowledge, and skills are less than that required for identification as a veterinary technician or
23 technologist.

24 Section 2. There shall be a subsidiary board for veterinary technology under the Board of
25 Registration in Veterinary Medicine, in sections twenty-seven and twenty-eight called the
26 subsidiary board. In said subsidiary board four members will be appointed by the Executive
27 board of the Massachusetts Veterinary Technician Association. The subsidiary technician board
28 should consist of 2 veterinarian members of the Board of Registration in Veterinary Medicine, 4
29 technician members appointed by the MVTA and one public member.

30 The subsidiary technician board is subject to the Board of Registration, its recommendations or
31 decisions are subject to approval by the full Board.

32 Each member of said board shall be a legal resident of the commonwealth. Each veterinary
33 technician member shall be licensed to practice veterinary technology in the commonwealth.
34 The technicians initially appointed to the technician board by the MVTA should be MVTA-
35 accredited technicians and the initial appointments should be for no more than two years. During
36 the initial two years, rules and procedures for technician licensure will be established by the
37 technician board: after those rules are established, each veterinary technician member shall be a
38 Massachusetts licensed veterinary technician.

39 The subsidiary technician board shall determine and establish the criteria and regulations by
40 which veterinary technicians shall be licensed and registered in the Commonwealth of
41 Massachusetts subject to approval by the Board of Registration.

42 The subsidiary board of veterinary technology under the Board of Registration of Veterinary
43 Medicine shall establish the duties which supervising, Massachusetts-licensed veterinarians may
44 assign to licensed veterinary technicians, and to non-licensed veterinary assistants, consistent
45 with good veterinary medical practice in the best interests of Massachusetts consumers. The
46 subsidiary board shall be entitled to change or alter the duties and rights granted to licensed
47 veterinary technicians and veterinary assistants as deemed necessary or appropriate by the
48 subsidiary board to reflect changes in the practice of veterinary technology over time. The
49 board shall also stipulate explicit differences in the duties and actions allowed for by licensed
50 veterinary technicians and unlicensed veterinary assistants.

51 Section 3. Board Rule Promulgation

52 The subsidiary board is hereby directed to craft appropriate regulations to govern the practice of
53 veterinary technicians and assistants. The board will establish criteria for licensure of

54 technicians, and for the maintenance, suspension or revocation of licenses. Any “grandfather”
55 clause that allows currently working or credentialed technicians to become licensed
56 automatically or via a tiered system that allows for licensure without a formal degree in
57 veterinary technology shall have an end date to be determined by the subsidiary board.

58 This section shall not apply to veterinary technicians employed by USDA and AALAC-
59 accredited research institutions. The activities of employed veterinarians and veterinary
60 technicians in those institutions shall uphold the rules governing those institutions.

61 Veterinary students and veterinary technician students working under the supervision of a
62 Massachusetts licensed veterinarian or Massachusetts licensed veterinary technician may engage
63 in those necessary activities to learn and practice supervised techniques on living patients. The
64 subsidiary board may add additional categories of individuals who may engage in those
65 necessary activities to learn and practice supervised techniques of living patients

66 Section 4. The subsidiary board may promulgate regulations requiring veterinary technicians to
67 have professional malpractice liability insurance or a suitable bond or other indemnity against
68 liability for professional malpractice in such amounts as may be determined by the board.

69 Section 5. The regulation promulgated under section fifty-nine of chapter one hundred and
70 twelve shall not apply to individual veterinary technicians or assistants who are (a) governed or
71 regulated by United States Department of Agriculture and the Association for Assessment and
72 Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care accredited research institutions. And, (b) special
73 cases, including veterinary technicians or assistants working with zoos and aquaria, shelters,
74 diagnostic facilities, licensed wildlife rehabilitation facilities and other such special cases as the

75 subsidiary board shall identify. In general, these regulations shall consider the special
76 circumstances of these types of practice.

77 Section 6. The board shall establish the criteria by which a veterinary technician is deemed
78 licensed or non-licensed. Licensed veterinary technicians shall be required to have an associate
79 or bachelor degree in veterinary technology from an institution that has been accredited or
80 provisionally accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association. Veterinary
81 technicians who currently are licensed as veterinary technicians shall be required to obtain
82 formal training and or education for proper veterinary technology work at the sole discretion of
83 the board.

84 All non-licensed veterinary technicians must receive a formal degree in veterinary technology
85 from an institution accredited or provisionally accredited by the American Veterinary Medical
86 Association. All employed, non-licensed veterinary technicians who have not received or
87 enrolled to obtain a formal degree in veterinary technology, in accordance with the regulations
88 set by the board, by the first of January in the year of 2018 shall be prohibited from the duties
89 specifically restricted to licensed veterinary technicians, but can perform the duties allowed to
90 veterinary assistants. The subsidiary board shall establish a requirement for continuing education
91 for licensed veterinary technicians, commencing in the year 2018.

92 The subsidiary board shall also be authorized to suspend or revoke a veterinary technician's
93 license at the board's unanimous discretion for failure to abide by the Massachusetts General
94 Laws, Massachusetts regulations, or any ordinance imposed by the Board of Registration in
95 Veterinary Medicine."

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