

# House Concurrent Resolution No. 29

## 99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE HURST.

1623H.011

1           **WHEREAS**, on January 1, 2017, new regulations implemented by the Food and Drug  
2 Administration (FDA) regarding veterinary feed directives (VFD) went into effect; and

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4           **WHEREAS**, the regulations will require prescriptions for many over-the-counter  
5 antibiotic medications administered to livestock both through feed and water; and

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7           **WHEREAS**, the regulations govern all feed-grade and water-soluble antibiotics that are  
8 considered medically important, but not antimicrobial drugs administered via injection; and

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10          **WHEREAS**, under the new regulations, producers will need a veterinary feed directive  
11 from their veterinarian to use feed-grade antibiotics or a prescription to use water-soluble  
12 antibiotics; and

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14          **WHEREAS**, for veterinarians to issue a VFD or prescription, they must have a  
15 veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR) with the producer, which means they are required  
16 to have a working relationship with the producer and be acquainted with the care and keeping  
17 of their animals; and

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19          **WHEREAS**, obtaining a VFD or prescription from a veterinarian may present a  
20 challenge to many producers; and

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22           **WHEREAS**, the additional time to contact a veterinarian and obtain the antibiotics could  
23 be critical, especially in situations where bacteria can travel from animal to animal and hours  
24 matter; and

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26           **WHEREAS**, a veterinarian attempting to act quickly on behalf of a farmer could find  
27 themselves in violation if they don't have an established relationship already in place between  
28 the farmer and feed supplier; and

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30           **WHEREAS**, the shortage of large animal veterinarians in our state, especially in remote  
31 areas, could make compliance with the new regulations difficult for many producers, if not  
32 impossible; and

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34           **WHEREAS**, producers who are unaware of the new regulations or who are unable to  
35 comply and who give feed containing a VFD drug to an animal without a lawful VFD as required  
36 by law could be found in violation of the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. The feed given would  
37 be considered unsafe, adulterated, and misbranded and any animals fed the feed would be  
38 considered adulterated; and

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40           **WHEREAS**, violations could also result in the FDA seeking a variety of penalties  
41 including federal imprisonment, significant monetary penalties, injunctive relief, and seizure of  
42 property; and

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44           **WHEREAS**, the complex regulations will require producers and veterinarians to  
45 maintain an unrealistic amount of detailed forms and records, which must be retained for a  
46 minimum of two years, leading producers and veterinarians to spend countless additional hours  
47 producing paperwork, which will lead to increased costs; and

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49           **WHEREAS**, the VFD rule is part of the FDA's strategy to promote the judicious use of  
50 antimicrobials in food-producing animals. The FDA believes antibiotics are causing resistance

51 in humans who consume beef products, but they have continuously failed to back this claim with  
52 proper peer-reviewed sound science; and

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54 **WHEREAS**, the new veterinary feed directive regulations are not rooted in sound  
55 science and do nothing to advance animal or human health:

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57 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of  
58 Representatives of the Ninety-ninth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate  
59 concurring therein, hereby urge the federal government to rescind the veterinary feed directive  
60 regulations that went into effect on January 1, 2017; and

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62 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of  
63 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Majority  
64 and Minority Party leadership of the United States Congress, each member of the Missouri  
65 congressional delegation, and the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration.

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