

VOTE YES



HB25-1285

Effective Regulation for Veterinary Professional Associates

Why Colorado Needs HB25-1285 NOW

- The State Board of Veterinary Medicine (SBVM) needs HB25-1285 NOW – it provides essential statutory guidance required to write complete, effective rules for the Veterinary Professional Associate (VPA) by the August 14, 2025 SBVM adoption deadline.
- The bill supports both the will of the voters and the mission of the SBVM by “ensuring that only qualified persons are licensed/registered to provide veterinary care” which in turn “safeguards the health, safety, and welfare of the people and animals of Colorado.
- With effective regulations the VPA can become a valuable contributor to veterinary care teams and maintain the high quality care that Coloradans expect, as envisioned by Proposition 129.

HB25-1285 Ensures Competence, Effective Supervision, Consumer Protection:

Provides statutory guidance to the SBVM on adoption of rules to regulate the VPA as it does all other veterinary roles:

Competence

- Approval of an independent accrediting entity by 2033 for the CSU Master of Veterinary Clinical Care Program
- Approval of an entity to provide national competency examination for VPAs
- Approval of an independent veterinary entity to credential VPA candidates for registration
- Continuing Education requirements for VPA aligned with standards set for DVMs, VTSs, and RVTs

Supervision

- Determination of clinical benchmarks and appropriate levels of supervision (immediate, direct, or indirect) of a VPA by a licensed veterinarian
- The requirement for a signed agreement between the veterinarian and VPA, similar to that for PAs in human medicine
- The number of VPAs that a veterinarian can supervise
- Voluntary participation of DVM and VPA in supervisory agreement

Consumer Protection

- The responsibility and accountability of the licensed, supervising veterinarian for the acts and omissions of the VPA
- Creation of an equivalent registration pathway to provide VPA eligibility for qualified individuals
- Identification of the VPA to clients through introduction and name badge

How is This Different from Veterinary Legislation Passed in 2024?

- HB 24-1047 focused on expanding the role of Registered Veterinary Technicians
- HB 24-1048 focused on providing veterinary services through telehealth
- Proposition 129 created a brand-new veterinary role, Veterinary Professional Associate (VPA), that does not now exist. HB 25-1285 is essential for creating new oversight and accountability structures for the VPA

Still have questions? Please contact CACVT/CVMA/AVMA Lobbyists:

Sundari Kraft 303.956.7203, Jennifer Penn 720.937.2148, Leo Boyle 303.377.5469, Ed Bowditch 303.489.8680 and Jennifer Cassell 785.393.0472

Supported by:



Rocky Mountain
Farmers Union

