

New Laws for 2022

During the 2021 legislative session, California lawmakers passed two laws that significantly impact the veterinary profession. Below is a brief summary of those laws, both of which will be enacted on January 1, 2022.

AB 1535 (ASSEMBLY BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS COMMITTEE) VETERINARY MEDICAL BOARD: SUNSET REVIEW

This bill served as the legislative vehicle for a comprehensive review of the California Veterinary Medical Board (VMB). Termed a “sunset review,” this process allows interested parties to bring forth issues and proposed changes to the California Veterinary Medicine Practice Act in an omnibus bill that addresses multiple topics at one time. Among the most significant aspect of the bill include:

- Repealing the California State Veterinary Licensing Examination so that veterinarians who wish to be licensed in California must only pass the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE) and a take-home open book California veterinary law examination;
- Revising and raising the statutory limits for license and permit fees, and lowering registered veterinary technician fees;
- Creating a statutory exemption from premises registration with the VMB for animal shelters that perform the limited veterinary practices of vaccination, parasite control, and administering medications to individual animals pursuant to orders from a veterinarian with an established Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship for that animal;
- Requiring registered veterinary technicians, veterinary assistants, and veterinary assistant controlled substance permit holders to wear name identification tags in at least 18-point type that include their license or permit numbers;
- Expanding the VMB’s scope of authority in relation to premises permits of practices owned by non-veterinarians and prohibiting non-veterinarian owners from interfering with, directing, or controlling the professional judgment of any veterinarian or registered veterinary technician;
- Making falsely advertising as a specialist or board-certified practitioner subject to board discipline

All of the provisions set forth therein will take effect on January 1, 2022, with the exception of the name tag

requirement, which will be enforced beginning January 1, 2023. The CVMA has introduced a new member benefit that provides a discounted printing price for name tags that meet statutory requirements. See page 31 for more information.

AB 1282 (BLOOM) (COAUTHOR WILK): VETERINARY MEDICINE: BLOOD BANKS FOR ANIMALS

Beginning January 1, 2022, California’s canine blood banking system will change to permit blood to be sourced and sold through community-based donor model businesses, which can include veterinary practices. The new law also requires that each blood bank be overseen by a California-licensed veterinarian. Historically, California law prohibited blood from being produced and sold by community-based models and required California veterinarians to obtain blood from California’s two closed-colony blood banks. While those blood banks will continue to operate in 2022 and likely beyond, the change in statute will make it possible for community blood banks to also produce canine blood and blood products for sale to a third party. When the community-blood banking system shows that it can match the closed colonies’ production for canine blood and blood products sold in California, closed colony banks will then be phased out. This new model of blood banking will require entities to register with both the VMB and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and split oversight between the two agencies. The CDFA will also provide guidance to the industry on canine blood banking best practices.

In addition to the above two laws, several new employment laws will take effect in 2022. While none of those laws are veterinary specific, they impose requirements about which employers and employees in all industries should be aware. For more information on these, contact your Human Resources or payroll service providers.

Join us for the CVMA’s online seminar, “New Laws for 2022,” on January 19 and 25, 2022 presented by Dan Baxter, CVMA Executive Director, and Dr. Grant Miller, CVMA Director of Regulatory Affairs. This course is free to all CVMA members, offers 1.5 CEUs, and will cover new and important laws that all employers and employees should take note of moving forward. To register, visit the Learning tab at cvma.net or call 800.655.2862. ■