

2012 -- H 7697

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

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A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS - VETERINARY PRACTICE

Introduced By: Representatives Keable, Lally, Petrarca, Walsh, and E Coderre

Date Introduced: February 16, 2012

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 5-25-11 of the General Laws in Chapter 5-25 entitled "Veterinary
2 Practice" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **5-25-11. Licensing of veterinarians.** -- (a) By Examination. - The applicant is required
4 to pass, with a grade determined by the division, an examination approved by the division; upon
5 payment of an examination fee of three hundred and thirty dollars (\$330) every candidate who
6 passes that examination, and in the opinion of the division meets the qualifications of section 5-
7 25-10, shall, upon payment of an initial license fee, which shall be equal to the biennial license
8 renewal fee in effect, be issued a license to practice veterinary medicine. Veterinarians licensed
9 under the provisions of this chapter on August 31, 1985 shall continue to be licensed.

10 (b) Without Examination by Endorsement. - A license to practice veterinary medicine
11 may be issued without examination to an applicant who has been duly licensed by examination as
12 a veterinarian under the laws of another state or territory or District of Columbia, if, in the
13 opinion of the division, the applicant meets the qualifications required of veterinarians in this
14 state, as further defined in rules and regulations.

15 (c) Exemption at discretion of Governor. A veterinarian who is properly and currently
16 licensed or credentialed in another state may practice, without written examination or other
17 qualification, in the state of Rhode Island during an emergency or natural disaster, in a capacity
18 that is in direct response to said emergency or natural disaster and in a manner that is directed by
19 the Rhode Island state veterinarian, or other animal health official with authority delegated by the

1 Rhode Island state veterinarian, and until the services of said veterinarian are no longer required
2 within the state as determined by the Rhode Island state veterinarian or other animal health
3 official with authority delegated by the Rhode Island state veterinarian; provided that:

4 (1) An official declaration of the disaster or emergency, as defined in subdivision 30-15-3
5 (1), has been declared by the governor or other authorized state official; or

6 (2) An invitation has been extended to the veterinarian by the governor or another
7 authorized state official or an animal health official with authority delegated by an authorized
8 state official. Such entities shall include the director of the department of environmental
9 management the director of health and the chief of the division of agriculture or the state
10 veterinarian.

11 SECTION 2. Section 20-1-26 of the General Laws in Chapter 20-1 entitled "General
12 Provisions" is hereby amended to read as follows:

13 **20-1-26. Freshwater invasive aquatic plants -- Prohibition on importation and**

14 **possession.** -- (a) No person shall import, transport, disperse, distribute, introduce, sell, purchase,
15 or possess in the state any species of non-native (exotic) freshwater invasive aquatic plants, as
16 defined by the director. The director shall promulgate rules and regulations governing the
17 prohibition and its applicability. The prohibition and its enforcement shall not become effective
18 until the rules and regulations governing the prohibition and its applicability take effect.

19 (b) Violations of this section shall be ~~a misdemeanor,~~ punishable by a fine of not more
20 than five hundred dollars (\$500) ~~or imprisonment for up to ninety (90) days, or both.~~

21 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS - VETERINARY PRACTICE

- 1 This act would provide for an emergency waiver for veterinarians to perform veterinary
- 2 services in Rhode Island under certain emergency situations.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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