
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1502 (Berman) - Veterinary medicine: California Veterinary Medical Board

Version: July 1, 2025

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 18, 2025

Policy Vote: B., P. & E.D. 8 - 0

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Janelle Miyashiro

Bill Summary: AB 1502 is the sunset bill for the California Veterinary Medical Board (VMB) and extends the operation of the VMB and its authority to appoint an Executive Officer (EO) until January 1, 2030 as well as makes changes recommended during the joint sunset review of the VMB.

Fiscal Impact:

- The 2025-26 Budget Act provides approximately \$9.244 million (VMB Contingent Fund) and 38.3 positions to support the continued operation of the VMB. The VMB notes the other following impacts resulting from the provisions of this bill:
 - Increased fee revenue of up to \$5.8 million annually from the revision of the VMB's current fee structure from a fixed amount to specify statutory fee limits. The VMB notes it would be required to promulgate regulations to increase fees within the statutory limit.
 - Minor travel costs, totaling to an annual cost of approximately \$4,000, to add an additional registered veterinary technician (RVT) board member.
- The Office of Information Services within the Department of Consumer Affairs reports costs of approximately \$11,000 to update applications, add fee codes, and make other IT changes. Costs are anticipated to be absorbable through the redirection of existing maintenance resources.

Background: In March 2025, the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee and the Assembly Committee on Business and Professions (Committees) began their comprehensive sunset review oversight of ten regulatory entities, including the VMB. The Committees conducted three oversight hearings. This bill and the accompanying sunset bills are intended to implement legislative changes as recommended by staff of the Committees, and which are reflected in the Background Papers prepared by Committee staff for each agency and program reviewed this year.

Proposed Law:

- Adds an additional RVT member to the VMB and requires one of the four veterinarian members to practice in equine or livestock care, or both.
- Extends the operations of the VMB and its authority to appoint an executive office until January 1, 2030.
- Clarifies that the RVT member on the Veterinary Medicine Multidisciplinary Committee (MDC) is to be appointed by the board president.

- Permits a Veterinary Assistant Controlled Substance Permit (VACSP)-holder, under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian, to compound drugs for animal use, as specified.
- Revises and recasts the registration requirements for a VACSP permit holder.
- Revises and recasts the registration requirements for a RVT, as specified.
- Adds a definition of “immediate supervision” for purposes of gaining experience in a veterinary technology program, to mean supervision by a person who is within audible and visual range of both the animal patient and the person being supervised.
- Requires a veterinarian to provide a copy of animal patient records to their respective client or the client’s authorized agent within five days of receiving a verbal or written request.
- Specifies that if the request for records is because the animal is in critical condition or direct transfer to another veterinary premises for medical care is recommended, the veterinarian upon release of the animal patient from the veterinarian’s care must either:
 - Provide a copy or summary of the written record to the client or the client’s authorized agency;
 - If a record is not available upon release of the animal patient, communicate information to facilitate continuity of care of the animal patient either to the receiving veterinarian or veterinary premises or the or client’s authorized agents if the receiving veterinary premises is unknown.
- Requires within 30 days of receiving a written or verbal request by a client or their authorized agent for a record of client payments, the licensee manager of the veterinary premises provide a record of client payments made to the veterinary premises related to services and treatment provided. A record of client payments are to be maintained for a minimum of three years after the animal’s last visits.
- Strikes an existing statute related to veterinarian continuing education (CE) and creates a new article under the Veterinary Practice Act (Act) that regulates CE, as specified.
- Includes VACSP holder or a veterinary premises registration holder under the VMB’s authority to issue a citation for a violation of the Act.
- Specifies that a fine for unlicensed practice is no less than \$2,000 and no more than \$10,000.
- Clarifies that provisions of the Act are applicable to a registrant and permit holder in addition to a licensee.
- Clarifies RVT students may only administer controlled substances and perform drug compounding under the “immediate supervision” of a licensed veterinarian.

- Requires all education completed by a RVT to be accredited by the AVMA or the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, or approved by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE).
- Requires a petition by a person whose license or registration has been revoked or who has been placed on probation to be accompanied by both of the following:
 - At least two verified recommendations from veterinarians licensed by the VMB who have personal knowledge of the activities of the petitioner since the disciplinary penalty was imposed; and,
 - A full set of fingerprints for purposes of conducting a criminal history record check.
- States that if reinstatement fees, delinquency fees, or reimbursement of costs of prosecution and enforcement, as applicable, are not paid by a petition, as specified, within one year of the effective date of the decision reinstating the license, registration or permit, the petition is deemed abandoned, and the license, registration or permit cannot be reinstated as ordered by that decision.
- Deletes the current authority for the VMB to provide a fee waiver or refund for any part of an examination fee in those cases where an applicant whose license has been expired for more than five years is reinstated without an examination requirement.
- Adds definitions of veterinary premises for purposes of a premises registration fee.
- Increases the following fee caps:
 - Up to \$550 for the veterinarian license application fee.
 - Up to \$155 for the California Veterinary Medicine Practice Act course fee.
 - Up to \$800 for the initial veterinarian license fee.
 - Up to \$800 for the biennial veterinarian license renewal fee.
 - Up to \$540 for the university licensee application fee.
 - Up to \$800 for the initial university license fee.
 - Up to \$800 for the biennial university licensee renewal fee.
 - Up to \$300 for the RVT application fee.
 - Up to \$300 for the initial RVT registration fee.
 - Up to \$300 for the biennial RVT renewal fee.
 - Up to \$300 for the VACSP application fee.
 - Up to \$300 for the initial issuance of a VACSP.
 - Up to \$300 for the renewal of a VACSP.
- Establishes the following premises registration fees:
 - An initial small veterinary premises registration fee, not to exceed \$840 annually.
 - An annual small veterinary premises registration renewal fee, not to exceed \$910.
 - An initial medium veterinary premises registration fee, not to exceed \$1,120 annually.
 - An annual medium veterinary premises registration renewal fee, not to exceed \$1,190.

- An initial large veterinary premises registration fee, not to exceed \$1,675 annually
 - An annual large veterinary premises registration renewal fee, not to exceed \$1,745.
- Revises existing delinquency or deficiency fees and establishes that all license, registration, and permit delinquency fees shall be 50 percent of the renewal fee in effect on the date of the renewal, but cannot be less than \$50 or more than \$150.
- Strikes the requirement that the CVMB maintain a fund condition of no more than 10 months in reserves, as specified.
- Deletes the filing fee for approval of an institution offering a curriculum training RVTs, as specified.
- Makes numerous other technical, conforming and clarifying changes.

Related Legislation: SB 774 (Ashby, 2025) is the Department of Real Estate and Bureau of Real Estate Appraisers sunset bill. SB 774 is pending in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

SB 775 (Ashby, 2025) is the Board of Psychology and Board of Behavioral Sciences sunset bill. SB 775 is pending in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

SB 776 (Ashby, 2025) is the Board of Optometry sunset bill. SB 776 is pending in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 1501 (Berman, 2025) is the Physician Assistant Board and Podiatric Medical Board of California sunset bill. AB 1501 is pending in this committee.

AB 1503 (Berman, 2025) is the California State Board of Pharmacy sunset bill. AB 1503 is pending in this committee.

AB 1504 (Berman, 2025) is the California Massage Therapy Council sunset bill. AB 1504 is pending in this committee.

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