



SENATE BILL 651: Amend Veterinary Practice Act.

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Agriculture, Energy, and Environment. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	April 27, 2021
Introduced by:	Sen. Rabon	Prepared by:	Kyle Evans and Aaron McGlothlin
Analysis of:	First Edition		Committee Counsels

OVERVIEW: *Senate Bill 651 would do all the following:*

- (i) Define "veterinary consulting" and clarify that it does not constitute the practice of veterinary medicine.*
- (ii) Expand the eligibility for "veterinary student interns" to include currently enrolled students who have satisfactorily completed the second year of an accredited veterinary college.*
- (iii) Eliminate the position of "veterinary student preceptees" from the veterinary statutes.*
- (iv) Make technical and conforming changes to the North Carolina Veterinary Practice Act.*

CURRENT LAW / BILL ANALYSIS:

Veterinary Consulting

G.S. 90-187.10 allows an out-of-state veterinarian to act as a consultant for a North Carolina licensed veterinarian if certain conditions regarding notice and supervision are met. The consultation by the out-of-state veterinarian must not exceed 10 days a year.

Senate Bill 651 would define "veterinary consulting" as "when any person, whose expertise the veterinarian believes would benefit the veterinarian's patient, provides advice by any means of communication to a veterinarian at the veterinarian's direction or request." It further clarifies that veterinary consulting does not constitute the practice of veterinary medicine by that act alone.

Veterinary Student Intern

G.S. 90-187.6 authorizes a veterinary student intern to assist a licensed veterinarian in diagnosis, laboratory analysis, and anesthesia and surgical procedures. Also, if under the direct personal supervision of a veterinarian, a veterinary student intern may perform surgery and administer therapeutic or prophylactic drugs.

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Senate Bill 651

Page 2

A veterinary student intern must be enrolled in an accredited veterinary college, and must have satisfactorily completed the third year of the program and registered with the N.C. Veterinary Medical Board (Board).

Senate Bill 651 would expand the pool of students eligible to become veterinary student interns to currently enrolled students who have satisfactorily completed the second year of veterinary college.

Veterinary Student Preceptee

In addition to the services that veterinary student interns are authorized to carry out, G.S. 90-187.6 authorizes a veterinary student preceptee to make ambulatory calls, hospital and clinic diagnoses, write prescriptions, and carry out other treatments at the direction of the employing veterinarian.

A veterinary student preceptee must be pursuing a doctorate degree in an accredited veterinary college that has a preceptor or extern program, and must have completed the academic requirements of that program and registered with the Board.

Senate Bill 651 would eliminate the position of veterinary student preceptees from the veterinary statutes.

This bill would also make technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would become effective October 1, 2021.