



SENATE BILL 282: Veterinary Medical Board Inspections.

2023-2024 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Agriculture, Energy, and Environment.	Date:	March 28, 2023
	If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate		
Introduced by:	Sens. Jackson, Rabon	Prepared by:	Chris Saunders
Analysis of:	First Edition		Committee Counsel

OVERVIEW: *Senate Bill 282 would require the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board (Board) to notify a veterinarian of an upcoming inspection at least one week prior to the inspection and provide with the notice a checklist of all standards adopted by rule for which the inspector may issue a violation and, with as much specificity as possible, conditions that violate the standards. The veterinarian may reschedule the inspection for a date no later than one week after the originally scheduled inspection date.*

CURRENT LAW AND BACKGROUND: Under current law, the Board may conduct investigations for the purpose of discovering violations of the North Carolina Veterinary Practice Act and may inspect any hospitals, clinics, mobile units or other facilities used by any practicing veterinarian and seek disciplinary action for violations of Board rules or rules of any county, State, or federal agency affecting the practice of veterinary medicine. The Board's rule on minimum facility and practice standards, 21 NCAC 66 .0207, provides in part that "[t]he Board shall make periodic inspections of veterinary premises. Such inspection shall include, but not be limited to, verification of compliance with [the] Rule." New veterinary practice facilities are inspected prior to opening, then again the following year. Beyond the first year, new facilities are inspected on a two-year schedule. Periodic inspections of existing veterinary practice facilities are currently conducted without notice.

BILL ANALYSIS: Senate Bill 282 would require that the Board provide written notice of an upcoming inspection of a veterinary practice facility at least one week prior to the inspection. The written notice would have to be accompanied by a checklist of all standards adopted by rule for which the inspector may issue a violation and, with as much specificity as possible, conditions that violate the standards. The veterinarian would be able to contact the Board to reschedule the inspection, but the inspection must be rescheduled no later than one week after the originally scheduled date of the inspection.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would become effective October 1, 2023.

Jeffrey Hudson
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578