

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2025-094

REQUESTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STUDY CHANGES TO THE ARKANSAS VETERINARY
MEDICAL PRACTICE ACT AND THE REGULATION OF VETERINARIANS.

WHEREAS, Acts 2023, No. 691 abolished the Veterinary Medical Examining
Board, and its duties and responsibilities were transferred to the entity
that is now the Arkansas Board of Animal Health; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Board of Animal Health is not primarily composed
of practicing veterinarians and lacks knowledge of the complexities involving
veterinary medicine; and

WHEREAS, under the authority granted by § 2-33-102(g), the Arkansas
Board of Animal Health created an advisory committee called the Veterinary
Medical Examining Committee to assist with veterinary medicine concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Veterinary Medical Examining Committee does not have
authority to govern the practice of veterinary medicine or properly enforce
the rules and laws concerning the practice of veterinary medicine; and

WHEREAS, additional changes in the practice of veterinary medicine
require either legislative action or administrative rulemaking, including the
need for:

- (1) Investigators to address complaints;
- (2) Additional complaint processes;
- (3) Updates to collaborative practice agreements of veterinarian
technicians;
- (4) Updates to the terminology for equine teeth floating
practitioners;
- (5) Uniformity of telehealth, telemedicine, and teletriage in
the practice of veterinary medicine;
- (6) Supervision for equine dentistry sedation; and
- (7) Usage of funds from the abolished Veterinary Medical
Examining Board for investigators and scholarships; and

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2 WHEREAS, the General Assembly should study the changes needed for the
3 proper enforcement and governance of the practice of veterinary medicine in
4 this state,

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6 NOW THEREFORE,

7 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND ECONOMIC
8 DEVELOPMENT OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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10 THAT the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Economic
11 Development study changes to the Arkansas Veterinary Medical Practice Act and
12 the regulation of the practice of veterinary medicine in Arkansas.

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14 Respectfully submitted,

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18 Representative DeAnn Vaught
19 District 87
20 Prepared by: JMB/JMB
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