

Getting to the Bottom of the Veterinary Technician Shortage in Minnesota

The Veterinary Technician Licensure Bill's Chances are "Golden"

By Dr. Al Balay, Chair, MVMA Veterinary Technician Committee

At a townhall meeting with Representative Robert Bierman in March, Kim Horne was told that the veterinary technician licensure was "golden". That doesn't mean that it's a slam dunk by any stretch but after numerous hearings and giving testimony, this looks promising. In this article we share an update of where we are in the licensure efforts and what's next.

I want to thank everyone who participated in the Veterinary Day at the Capitol event on March 6th! We had 54 attendees and the majority of those that attended were veterinary technicians meeting with their legislators. Legislator meetings with constituents are very impactful. At the end of that day, we met with Chair of the House Health Finance and Policy Committee, Representative Tina Liebling. It was a very positive meeting where Chair Liebling indicated that she intended to include the veterinary technician licensure bill in with a mini-omnibus licensure bill. She did that in March and the bill was introduced with hearings in a few House committees. On the Senate side, their licensure Omnibus bill also included the language from our VT licensure bill. We've got an excellent chance of success that the bills will be passed in both chambers this legislative session. Then the work begins!

We amended the bill so that its start date would be in 2026 to allow the Board of Veterinary Medicine to write the rules. Rule writing is expected to take 12 – 18 months. Kim Horne and Al Balay have been asked to participate with the rule writing process that is quite extensive and involves the Office of the Revisor. We'll learn a great deal more once the bill goes through.

Have you seen the recent [guidelines](#) for Credentialed Veterinary Technicians from The American Association of Bovine Practitioners? A similar guideline is apparently coming from the American Association of Equine Practitioners. Both groups are intending to provide guidance on how veterinarians can broaden the delegation of tasks to credentialed veterinary technicians. Both associations acknowledge that the supervising veterinarian and the credentialed veterinary technician must follow applicable State rules and regulations. The veterinarian responsible for the supervision of the technician must ensure proper training and oversight. Al Balay uses the recommendation that the technician must be "competent and confident" when taking on greater responsibilities and supervising others.

We expect a lot of questions and needed explanations for what happens next once the bill goes through. Be patient as we'll all be learning together. Dr. Al Balay and Kim Horne's contact info is found on the MVMA veterinary technician licensure webpage.

Want more Information??

There has never been a better time to catch up on veterinary technician licensure!

For all of Dr. Balay's columns on the topic head to

mvma.org/veterinary-technician-licensure

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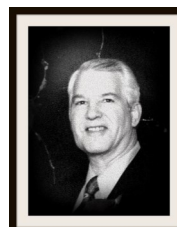
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