

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Interim:
P.O. Box 109
Wrangell, AK 99929
Phone: (907) 874-3088
Fax: (907) 874-3055



Session:
State Capitol, Room 406
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-3824
1-800-686-3824
Fax: (907) 465-3175

**REPRESENTATIVE PEGGY WILSON
HOUSE DISTRICT 2**

Sponsor Statement House Bill 139

“An Act relating to qualifications for licensure as a veterinarian.”

HB 139 will allow the Board of Veterinary Examiners to choose a certification program(s) that would allow graduates of foreign universities and schools to become licensed veterinarians in the State of Alaska.

Veterinarians play an indispensable role in Alaska. As such, Alaska wants the best veterinarians it can get, including veterinarians who have graduated from other schools and universities abroad. To be able to practice veterinary medicine in the United States there are two major certification programs that will certify veterinary graduates who have graduated from foreign schools and universities. Alaska only accepts one of these programs, but thirty-four states accept both.

Currently, the statute AS 08.98.165 allows foreign graduates who have specifically completed the Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates certification program (ECFVC) to become licensed veterinarians in Alaska. At the same time, 34 states accept this program as well as another certification program, Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE). HB139 will allow the Alaska Board of Veterinary examiners the power to determine which test or certification program to use. This bill will not endorse one program over another, nor is it a bill that directs the state to accept both programs. The Alaska Board of Veterinary Examiners will now have the power to select the certification program or programs they think are best.

This bill will also empower the board to review and endorse new certification programs as they are developed. This bill would hopefully bring more veterinarians to Alaska, and would encourage some to go out to rural Alaska.

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