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Representative Alan Dick

House District 6

Sectional Analysis CS SS HB 251 () Version R: Veterinary Examiners

Section 1:

Makes clear that a person licensed in another state may volunteer veterinarian services and receive coffee, housing and other nonmonetary compensation. Defines uncompensated practice.

Section 2:

Uses the example of the Medical Board statutes (AS 08.64.326-331) to clarify that the Board of Veterinary Medicine may not base a finding of "professional incompetence", etc., solely on unconventional treatments in the absence of harm to the animal.

Section 3:

Amends the complaint process.

Complaints may only be filed:

- by persons who own/are responsible for the animal seen by the Veterinarian.
- Against a licensee who treated the animal

Complaints must:

- Include documentation of the alleged mistreatment
- Be made under oath
- Filed within six months of the date of the act or omission
- Be sent to the subject of the complaint/allegation

During the Investigation the Department:

- Shall interview, under oath, the complainant, the licensee, any technician or assistant to the veterinarian;
- Determine whether the complainant followed aftercare procedures
- Include in its report all relevant information and exculpatory evidence.

Board members within five miles of a licensee's principal place of business may not participate in a disciplinary hearing relating to that licensee.

Section 4:

Requires the Board of Veterinary Examiners, in conjunction with the Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development to prepare a report on the availability of veterinary services in rural Alaska.

The report cannot recommend spending State funds to address the veterinary needs in rural Alaska.

The report is due to the Legislature by December 31, 2012.

The Board must consult with the Alaska Federation of Natives in preparing the report.