

Alaska State Legislature

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Representative Alan Dick

House District 6

Sectional Analysis

CS SS HB 251 (L&C) Version O: 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.

Requires the Department to verify the license of a person seeking to provide pro bono veterinary care in Alaska. Veterinarians licensed in other states wishing to provide pro bono care will provide contact information, list all states where they are licensed to practice and provide a copy of the license in the state in which the person lives and practices.

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" 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 two years 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:

Creates a Task Force to examine the need for and status of veterinary services in rural Alaska, including rabies vaccinations. Task Force members are:

- Two House members representing rural Alaska
- Two Senate members representing rural Alaska
- Representative of the Alaska Federation of Natives
- Representative of the State Board of Veterinary Examiners
- State Epidemiologist or designee
- DHSS/Div. of Public Health Veterinarian or designee
- DEC State Veterinarian or designee
- A veterinarian providing services in rural Alaska, not a member of the Board
- A veterinarian providing services in a road-system (urban) community in Alaska, not a member of the Board

The Task Force recommendations are due to the Governor and Legislature by December 31, 2012.