

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James T. Welch

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to establish a subsidiary board for veterinary technology.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

James T. Welch

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Hampden

SENATE No.

[Pin Slip]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act to establish a subsidiary board for veterinary technology.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Findings. The General Court finds:

2 (1) That veterinary technicians are integral members of a veterinary team; and

3 (2) That veterinary technicians provide consumer protection, public health and safety in
4 veterinary offices and in other areas of animal medical care and welfare; and

5 (3) That it is in the best interest of the Commonwealth to promote the advancement of
6 veterinary technicians, their management and professionalism so far as possible making
7 use of existing accredited private and public training already in use in the Commonwealth or
8 elsewhere for their oversight.

9 SECTION 2. Chapter 13 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010 Official Edition,
10 is hereby amended by inserting after section 26 of chapter 13 the following new section: -

11 SECTION 26A.

12 Subsidiary Board for Veterinary Technology under the Board of Registration in
13 Veterinary Medicine.

14 Section 1. When used in this act these words and phrases shall be defined as follows: 1.

15 Veterinary Technology, the science and art of providing professional support to
16 veterinarians. 2.

17 Veterinary technician, a graduate of an American Veterinary Medical Association-
18 accredited program in veterinary technology or nursing; 3. Veterinary Assistant, is the title
19 sometimes used for individuals where training, knowledge, and skills are less than that required
20 for identification as a veterinary technician.

21 Section 2. There shall be a subsidiary board for veterinary technology under the Board of
22 Registration in Veterinary Medicine, in sections twenty-seven and twenty-eight called the
23 subsidiary board. In said subsidiary board four members will be appointed by the
24 Executive

25 board of the Massachusetts Veterinary Technician Association. The subsidiary technician
26 board should consist of two veterinarian members of the Board of Registration in Veterinary
27 Medicine, four technician members appointed by the Massachusetts Veterinary Technician
28 Association and one public member.

29 The subsidiary technician board is subject to the Board of Registration, its
30 recommendations or decisions are subject to approval by the full Board.

31 Each member of said board shall be a legal resident of the commonwealth. Each

32 veterinary technician member shall be licensed to practice veterinary technology in the
33 commonwealth. The technicians initially appointed to the technician board by the
34 Massachusetts Veterinary Technician Association should be Massachusetts Veterinary
35 Technician Association -accredited technicians and the initial appointments should be for no
36 more than two years. During the initial two years, rules and procedures for technician licensure
37 will be established by the technician board: after those rules are established, each veterinary
38 technician member shall be a Massachusetts licensed veterinary technician.

39 The subsidiary technician board shall determine and establish the criteria and regulations
40 by which veterinary technicians shall be licensed and registered in the Commonwealth of
41 Massachusetts subject to approval by the Board of Registration.

42 The subsidiary board of veterinary technology under the Board of Registration of
43 Veterinary Medicine shall establish the duties which supervising, Massachusetts-licensed
44 veterinarians may assign to licensed veterinary technicians, and to non-licensed
45 veterinary

46 assistants, consistent with good veterinary medical practice in the best interests of
47 Massachusetts

48 consumers. The subsidiary board shall be entitled to change or alter the duties and rights
49 granted

50 to licensed veterinary technicians and veterinary assistants as deemed necessary or
51 appropriate

52 by the subsidiary board to reflect changes in the practice of veterinary technology over
53 time. The

54 board shall also stipulate explicit differences in the duties and actions allowed for by
55 licensed veterinary technicians and unlicensed veterinary assistants.

56 Section 3. Board Rule Promulgation

57 The subsidiary board is hereby directed to craft appropriate regulations to govern the
58 practice of veterinary technicians and assistants. The board will establish criteria for
59 licensure of technicians, and for the maintenance, suspension or revocation of licenses. Any
60 grandfather

61 clause that allows currently working or credentialed technicians to become licensed
62 automatically or via a tiered system that allows for licensure without a formal degree in
63 veterinary technology shall have an end date to be determined by the subsidiary board.

64 This section shall not apply to veterinary technicians employed by a research institution
65 as defined in Section 136A of Chapter 140. The activities of employed veterinarians and
66 veterinary technicians in those institutions shall uphold the rules governing those institutions.

67 Veterinary students and veterinary technician students working under the supervision of a
68 Massachusetts licensed veterinarian or Massachusetts licensed veterinary technician may
69 engage

70 in those necessary activities to learn and practice supervised techniques on living
71 patients. The

72 subsidiary board may add additional categories of individuals who may engage in those
73 necessary activities to learn and practice supervised techniques of living patients

74 Section 4. The subsidiary board may promulgate regulations requiring veterinary
75 technicians to have professional malpractice liability insurance or a suitable bond or other
76 indemnity against liability for professional malpractice in such amounts as may be determined by
77 the board.

78 Section 5. The regulation promulgated under section fifty-nine of chapter one hundred
79 and twelve shall not apply to individual veterinary technicians or assistants who are (a)
80 governed

81 or regulated by United States Department of Agriculture and the Association for
82 Assessment and

83 Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care accredited research institutions. And, (b)
84 special cases,

85 including veterinary technicians or assistants working with zoos and aquaria, shelters,
86 diagnostic

87 facilities, licensed wildlife rehabilitation facilities and other such special cases as the
88 subsidiary board shall identify. In general, these regulations shall consider the special
89 circumstances of these types of practice.

90 Section 6. The board shall establish the criteria by which a veterinary technician is

91 deemed licensed or non-licensed. Licensed veterinary technicians shall be required to
92 have an
93 associate or bachelor degree in veterinary technology from an institution that has been
94 accredited
95 or provisionally accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association.

96 All non-licensed veterinary technicians must receive a formal degree in veterinary
97 technology from an institution accredited or provisionally accredited by the American
98 Veterinary Medical Association. All employed, non-licensed veterinary technicians who have
99 not received

100 or enrolled to obtain a formal degree in veterinary technology, in accordance with the
101 regulations

102 set by the board, by the first of January five years from passage of this bill shall be
103 prohibited from the duties specifically restricted to licensed veterinary technicians but can
104 perform the duties allowed to veterinary assistants. The subsidiary board shall establish a
105 requirement for continuing education for licensed veterinary technicians, commencing five years
106 from the passage of this bill.

107 The subsidiary board shall also be authorized to suspend or revoke a veterinary
108 technicians license at the board's unanimous discretion for failure to abide by the
109 Massachusetts

110 General Laws, Massachusetts regulations, or any ordinance imposed by the Board of

