



Overview of AVMA State Advocacy Resources

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AVMA

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Sharing Information

- Legislative Tracking

- Alerts

- State Legislative Update Newsletter

Subject: AVMA Leg-Reg Alert for Washington



Legislative / Regulatory Alert for Washington

Of interest:
WA H.B. 1985 pertaining to animal services districts.

*If the Washington State VMA does not want further alerts on this specific bill / regulation please respond to sender:
"Washington State VMA does not need further alerts on this bill / regulation."*



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State Legislative Update

May 2025

This issue of the State Legislative Update includes select summaries of bills and regulations tracked by the AVMA Division of State Advocacy and introduced in May. For more information, please contact Madeline Brezin, assistant director, AVMA Division of State Advocacy (mbrezin@avma.org).

Education

Georgia enacted GA S.B. 20, which empowers the State Veterinary Education Board to establish a committee, consisting of two or more members of the Board, which, to the extent provided by the board, has the authority of the Board in regard to the loan purchases. It allows the Board to purchase educational loans made to resident veterinarians practicing shelter medicine full-time or practicing full-time at a nonprofit pet sterilization clinic in this state who have also been in practice for less than ten years, sets a cap on loan purchases at \$75,000 per person and direct the Board to enter loan agreements with up to four applicants per year, funds permitting, and requires each selected applicant to enter into a contract with the Board for a term of three consecutive years agreeing to the terms and conditions upon which the loan purchase is granted.

Georgia also enacted GA H.B. 172, which makes changes to the state's existing student loan forgiveness program, including limiting loan repayment eligibility to those whose veterinary medicine practices include food animal specialties and have been practicing such specialties for ten years or less, increasing the max potential loan repayment amount to \$90,000 and increasing potential annual repayment amount to \$30,000, increasing eligible rural county size to under 50,000 people, requiring service for three consecutive years, and limiting full participation in this program to once per lifetime.

Maryland enacted MD S.B. 318/MD H.B. 643, which expands an existing program, the Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program, to include veterinarians and veterinary technicians. It requires veterinarians and veterinary technicians to be employed for five years in the state or volunteer for a minimum of 100 hours per year for three years at a qualifying animal shelter to be eligible.

Mid-level practitioner / Veterinary professional associate (VPA)

Colorado enacted CO HB25-1265, which further outlines parameters for the veterinary professional associate position in the state. It requires a VPA to have a master's degree in veterinary clinical care and pass a national credentialing exam. It requires the supervising veterinarian of a VPA to be located at the same veterinary premises unless the VPA meets indirect supervision requirements (meeting requisite clinical benchmarks, including practicing veterinary medicine under direct or immediate supervision for a specified number of hours as determined by the Colorado Board of Veterinary Medicine). It allows a supervising veterinarian to supervise no more than

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	Bill	Actions	Status	Official Description
1	Georgia: S.B.105: Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians; licensed veterinarians	Actions	Became Public Law	A BILL to be entitled an A
2	Georgia: H.B.172: Veterinary education; limits on student loan forgiveness program; provide	Actions	Became Public Law	A BILL to be entitled an A
3	Georgia: S.B.20: Veterinarians; student loan repayment; who practice shelter medicine	Actions	Became Public Law	A BILL to be entitled an A
4	Delaware: S.B. 180: An Act To Amend Chapter 25, Title 24 Of The Delaware Code Relating To	Actions	Reported by Com...	The Board of Pharmacy i
-	Rhode Island: H.B.5025: An Act Relating To			



Serving as a Resource

- Informational Calls
- Charts/FAQs/One Pagers



This resource is provided for informational purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice.

State	CE Hours Required	Topic Restrictions	Mode Restrictions	Approved CE	Other Restrictions	Controlled Substances/ Opioids
Alabama	20 credit hours each year <u>*Ala. Admin. Code r. 930-X-1-12</u>	The Board will require twenty (20) hours per year in which a minimum of sixteen (16) hours must be in the area of scientific programs approved by the Board. A maximum of four (4) hours may be in the area of practice management programs that are approved by the Board.	Ten (10) of the hours may be obtained online through completion of RACE (Registry of Approved Continuing Education) approved courses.	Credit hours may be earned as follows: One (1) hour of credit for each hour of attendance at an in-depth seminar such as seminars sponsored by: 1. The AVMA; 2. The AAHA; 3. AAVSB CE Taskforce; 4. State Association; 5. Various academies; 6. Schools of veterinary medicine; and 7. Other State Veterinary Associations.	The ASBVME may periodically review national, regional, state, local, or online CE programs to determine whether they meet the standard expected by the Board.	N/A
Alaska	30 contact	No more than one-	N/A	A veterinarian must	N/A	N/A

Advocacy Assistance

- Leave Behinds
- Lobbyists
- Member alerts
- Testimony



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AVMA and RIVMA urge action opposing non-economic damages

HB 5926 intends to establish the ability for dog and cat owners to seek non-economic damages (e.g., loss of companionship, emotional distress, etc.) if their pet is seriously injured or killed due to another person's negligence under certain circumstances such as a veterinary malpractice case or when the animal has otherwise been voluntarily submitted for temporary control or custody. The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association (RIVMA), and several other groups are opposed to the bill and have submitted testimony, which can be found [here](#).

Increased costs will have to be passed along to clients. Veterinarians will be forced to practice more defensively, refer more cases for more expensive care, or decline to provide care for higher-risk animals. It will lead to increased incidences of "economic" euthanasia.

Rhode Island, like all other states, severely limits instances where noneconomic damages may be considered for harm to relationships, which are typically limited to spousal, parent-child, or other very close relatives. They are not allowed for relationships with grandparents, cousins, fiancés, or human best friends. Allowing them for animals, as the bill would, place human-animal relationships above most human-human relationships.

Take action and earn 5 CAN points

Already signed up? Returning users can [sign in here](#).



During sign up, choose from one of six animal avatars to grow with you as you earn points and advance through the advocacy tiers!

Fields with an asterisk (*) are required.

First Name *	Last Name *
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Address *	Email
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Username * ⓘ

Choose your AVMA advocacy avatar * ⓘ

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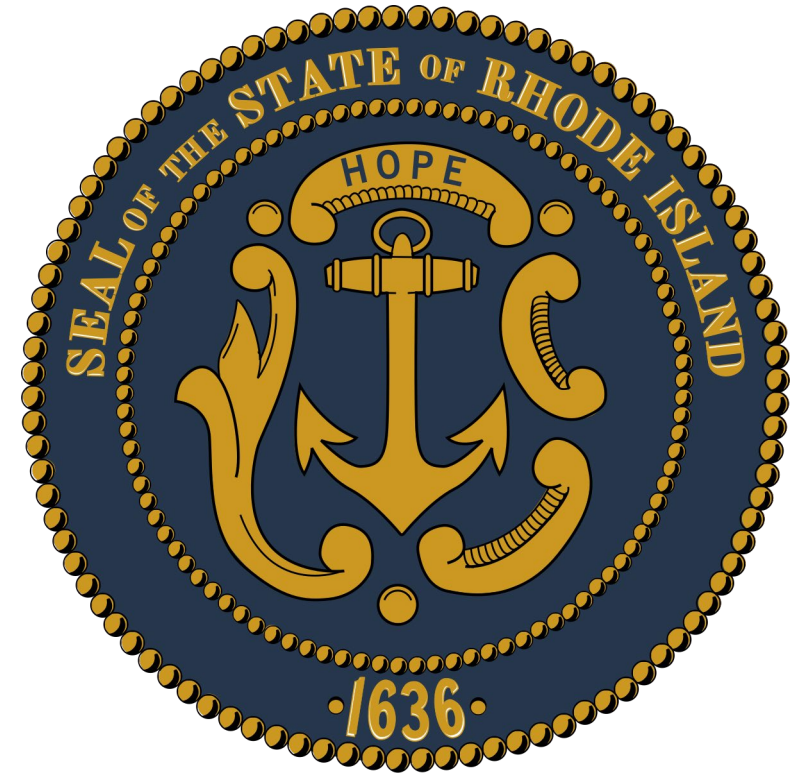
Thank you for joining our campaign. By providing your mobile phone number you consent to receive recurring text messages from our organization. Message & Data Rates May Apply. Text HELP for Info. Text STOP to opt out. No purchase necessary.



Case Study

RI H.B. 5926 – Would have created a cause of action for the intentional or negligent injury or death of a pet

- Informational meetings
- Hired lobbyist to work in collaboration with RIVMA lobbyist
- Submitted written testimony
- AVMA member alert in coordination with the RIVMA





THANK YOU

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