1	SENATE FLOOR VERSION
	February 24, 2020
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3	SENATE BILL NO. 1788 By: Murdock
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7	An Act relating to Oklahoma Veterinary Practice Act; amending 59 O.S. 2011, Sections 698.2, 698.17, 698.21, 698.22, 698.25 and 698.26, which relate to
8	definitions, emergency care, certified veterinary technician, examinations, revocation of registration
9	and unauthorized practices; modifying definitions; deleting language; changing veterinary technician to
10	<pre>veterinary nurse; stating terms of certain program; prohibiting use of certain term unless qualified;</pre>
11	changing veterinary assistant qualifications; adding program of veterinary nursing for examination
12	eligibility; updating statutory references; deleting statutory language; amending 76 O.S. 2011, Section
13 14	32, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 77, O.S.L. 2012 (76 O.S. Supp. 2019, Section 32), which relates to Volunteer Professional Services Immunity Act;
15	modifying language; and providing an effective date.
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18	BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:
19	SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2011, Section 698.2, is
20	amended to read as follows:
21	Section 698.2. As used in the Oklahoma Veterinary Practice Act: 1. "Board" means the State Board of Veterinary Medical
22	Examiners;
23	HAUMITICES,
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2. "Animal" means any animal other than humans and includes, but is not limited to, fowl, fish, birds and reptiles, wild or domestic, living or dead;

- 3. "Veterinarian" means a person who has received a degree in veterinary medicine or its equivalent from a school of veterinary medicine;
- 4. "Licensed veterinarian" means any veterinarian who holds an active license to practice veterinary medicine in this state;
- 5. "School of veterinary medicine" means any veterinary college or division of a university or college that offers the degree of doctor of veterinary medicine or its equivalent, which conforms to the standards required for accreditation by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and which is recognized and approved by the Board;
- 6. "Veterinary technician" "Registered veterinary nurse" means a person who has graduated from a two-year or four-year program accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association, or its equivalent which is recognized and approved by the Board, and who has passed the examination requirements set forth by the Board, is certified to practice under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian. For the purpose of the Oklahoma Veterinary Practice Act, only those persons qualified herein as a "registered veterinary technician (RVT)" will be used interchangeably with veterinary technician who is certified pursuant to Sections 698.21 through

698.26 of this title nurse (RVN)" may utilize the term "nurse" in connection with veterinary practices or animal care;

- 7. "Veterinary technologist" means a person who has successfully graduated from an AVMA-accredited bachelor degree program of veterinary technology, or its AVMA equivalent;
- 8. "Veterinary assistant" means an individual who may perform the duties of a veterinary technician or veterinary technologist, however, has not graduated from an AVMA-accredited technology program or its equivalent, and has not been certified by the Board aids a veterinarian or registered veterinary nurse in professional medical care to animals who does not meet the requirements to be credentialed as a registered veterinary nurse;
- 9. "Veterinary technology" or "veterinary nursing" means the science and art of providing all aspects of professional medical care, services, and treatment for animals with the exception of diagnosis, prognosis, surgery, and prescription of any treatments, drugs, medications, or appliances, where a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship exists;
 - 10. "Direct supervision" means:
 - a. directions have been given to a <u>registered</u> veterinary technician, nurse, laboratory technician, intern, veterinary assistant or other employee for medical care following the examination of an animal by the

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- b. that, under certain circumstances following the examination of an animal by a licensed veterinarian responsible for the professional care of the animal, the presence of the licensed veterinarian on the premises in an animal hospital setting or in the same general area in a range setting is required after directions have been given to a veterinarian who has a certificate issued pursuant to Section 698.8 of this title;
- 11. "License" means authorization to practice veterinary medicine granted by the Board to an individual found by the Board to meet certain requirements pursuant to the Oklahoma Veterinary Practice Act or any other applicable statutes;
- 12. "Supervised Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Certificate" means authorization to practice veterinary medicine with certain limitations or restrictions on that practice, set by the Board or authorization to perform certain enumerated functions peripheral to the practice of veterinary medicine as set by the Board and has a certificate issued pursuant to Section 698.8 of this title;
 - 13. "Veterinarian-client-patient relationship" means when:
 - a. the licensed veterinarian has assumed the responsibility for making medical judgments regarding

1 the health of an animal or animals and the need for 2 medical treatment, and the client, owner or other 3 caretaker has agreed to follow the instructions of the licensed veterinarian, and 4 5 b. there is sufficient knowledge of the animal or animals by the licensed veterinarian to initiate at least a 6 7 general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition of the animal or animals in that: 8 9 (1) the licensed veterinarian has recently seen or is 10 personally acquainted with the keeping and care 11 of the animal or animals, or 12 (2) the licensed veterinarian has made medically necessary and timely visits to the premises where 13 the animal or animals are kept or both, and 14 15 C. the licensed veterinarian is readily available for follow-up in case of adverse reactions or failure of 16 the regimen of therapy, or has arranged for emergency 17 medical coverage, and 18 d. the licensed veterinarian's actions would conform to 19 applicable federal law and regulations; 20 "Veterinary premises" means any facility where the practice 21 of veterinary medicine occurs, including, but not limited to, a 22

mobile unit, mobile clinic, outpatient clinic, satellite clinic,

public service outreach of a veterinary facility, or veterinary

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- hospital or clinic. The term "veterinary premises" shall not include the premises of a client of a licensed veterinarian or research facility;
 - 15. "Veterinary prescription drugs" means such prescription items as are in the possession of a person regularly and lawfully engaged in the manufacture, transportation, storage, or wholesale or retail distribution of veterinary drugs and the federal Food and Drug Administration-approved human drugs for animals which because of their toxicity or other potential for harmful effects, or method of use, or the collateral measures necessary for use, are labeled by the manufacturer or distributor in compliance with federal law and regulations to be sold only to or on the prescription order or under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian for use in the course of professional practice. Veterinary prescription drugs shall not include over-the-counter products for which adequate directions for lay use can be written;
 - 16. "ECFVG certificate" means a certificate issued by the
 American Veterinary Medical Association Education Commission for
 Foreign Veterinary Graduates, indicating that the holder has
 demonstrated knowledge and skill equivalent to that possessed by a
 graduate of an accredited or approved college of veterinary
 medicine;

17. "Executive Director" means the Executive Director of the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners or the authorized representative of such official;

- 18. "Telemedicine" shall mean the transmission of diagnostic images such as, but not limited to, radiographs, ultrasound, cytology, endoscopy, photographs and case information over ordinary or cellular phone lines to a licensed veterinarian or board-certified medical specialist for the purpose of consulting regarding case management with the primary care licensed veterinarian who transmits the cases;
- 19. "Person" means any individual, firm, partnership,
 association, joint venture, cooperative, corporation, or any other
 group or combination acting in concert, and whether or not acting as
 a principal, trustee, fiduciary, receiver, or as any other kind of
 legal or personal representative, or as the successor in interest,
 assignee, agent, factor, servant, employee, director, officer,
 fictitious name certificate, or any other representative of such
 person;
- 20. "Food animal" means any mammalian, poultry, fowl, fish, or other animal that is raised primarily for human food consumption;
- 21. "Surgery" means the branch of veterinary science conducted under elective or emergency circumstances, which treats diseases, injuries and deformities by manual or operative methods including, but not limited to, cosmetic, reconstructive, ophthalmic,

- orthopedic, vascular, thoracic, and obstetric procedures. The provisions in Section 698.12 of this title shall not be construed as surgery;
 - 22. "Abandonment" means to forsake entirely or to neglect or refuse to provide or perform the legal obligations for care and support of an animal by its owner, or the owner's agent.

 Abandonment shall constitute the relinquishment of all rights and
 - 23. "Animal chiropractic diagnosis and treatment" means treatment that includes vertebral subluxation complex (vcs) and spinal manipulation of nonhuman vertebrates. The term "animal chiropractic diagnosis and treatment" shall not be construed to allow the:
 - a. use of x-rays,

claims by the owner to an animal;

- b. performing of surgery,
- c. dispensing or administering of medications, or
- d. performance of traditional veterinary care;
- 24. "Animal euthanasia technician" means an employee of a law enforcement agency, an animal control agency, or animal shelter that is recognized and approved by the Board, who is certified by the Board and trained to administer sodium pentobarbital to euthanize injured, sick, homeless or unwanted domestic pets and other animals;
- 25. "Teeth floating", as provided by a nonveterinary equine dental care provider, means the removal of enamel points and the

- smoothing, contouring and leveling of dental arcades and incisors of equine and other farm animals. It shall not include dental procedures on canines and felines;
 - 26. "Nonveterinary reproductive services" means nonveterinary services provided by an individual certified by the Board as a nonveterinary reproductive services technician, and involves and shall be limited to nonsurgical embryo transfer in ruminating animals including cattle, sheep, goats, farmed deer and other ruminating exotic animals such as those found in zoos, and may include basic ultrasonography of their ovaries to evaluate the response to embryo-transfer-associated procedures and of the uterus to determine pregnancy by the detection of a heartbeat within the transferred embryo at or greater than twenty-eight (28) days of gestation of such ruminating animals;
 - 27. "Embryo transfer" means the biosecure process of inducing increased ovulations within a donor female for the in vivo production of embryos, the flushing of those embryos, collecting, grading and transferring of those embryos to recipient females, or the cryopreservation of those embryos for storage and later transfer to recipient females;
 - 28. "Animal Technology Advisory Committee" means the advisory committee established by the Board pursuant to Section 4 of this act

 698.30b of this title to advise and make recommendations to the

 Board regarding any new and evolving technology, procedure, method

- 1 or practice that may be considered or otherwise designated as an act
- 2 | of animal husbandry that should be included as an act not prohibited
- 3 | in paragraph 1 of Section 698.12 of the Oklahoma Veterinary Practice
- 4 Act. Reference to the advisory committee in this act the Oklahoma
- 5 | Veterinary Practice Act shall mean the Animal Technology Advisory
- 6 | Committee; and
- 7 29. "Examination Committee" means the committee established and
- 8 described in subsection E of Section 3 of this act 698.30a of this
- 9 title.
- 10 | SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2011, Section 698.17, is
- 11 | amended to read as follows:
- 12 Section 698.17. Any veterinarian or registered veterinary
- 13 | technician nurse who is licensed or certified in this state or
- 14 | licensed veterinarian or licensed veterinary technician nurse who is
- 15 | a resident of another state or the District of Columbia, and who in
- 16 good faith renders or attempts to render emergency care or treatment
- 17 to an animal at the scene of an accident or disaster or emergency
- 18 | care or treatment to a human victim thereof, shall not be liable for
- 19 any civil damages as a result of any acts or omissions by such
- 20 person rendering or attempting to render the emergency care or
- 21 | treatment.
- 22 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2011, Section 698.21, is
- 23 amended to read as follows:

- Section 698.21. A. Individuals certified as <u>registered</u>
 veterinary <u>technicians</u> <u>nurses</u> pursuant to the Oklahoma Veterinary
 Practice Act may use the terms registered veterinary <u>technician</u>
 <u>nurse</u>, veterinary <u>technician</u> <u>nurse</u>, or abbreviations such as CVT,
 RVT, and VT RVN.
- B. It shall be unlawful for any person to use any recognized title, abbreviation, or sign to indicate that such person is a registered veterinary technician nurse, unless that person has been certified as having met the qualifications provided for in the Oklahoma Veterinary Practice Act. Such use shall be prima facie evidence of the intention to represent oneself as a registered veterinary technician nurse.
- C. A person shall not act as a <u>registered</u> veterinary technician <u>nurse</u> in this state unless that person is certified by the Board and is under direct supervision of a veterinarian licensed pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma Veterinary Practice Act.
- D. A person shall not be considered to be a registered veterinary technician nurse in this state who:
- 1. Administers to animals for which such person holds title, unless such person has received title for the purpose of circumventing the Oklahoma Veterinary Practice Act; or
- 2. Is a regular student in a legally chartered and recognized curriculum for veterinary technician nurse training, while in the

- $1 \mid \text{performance of studies and acts assigned by that person's}$
- 2 instructors.
- 3 | SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2011, Section 698.22, is
- 4 amended to read as follows:
- 5 Section 698.22. A. The State Board of Veterinary Medical
- 6 Examiners shall examine a candidate for certification as a
- 7 | registered veterinary technician nurse. A candidate for examination
- 8 | shall pay to the secretary of the Board a reasonable fee established
- 9 by rule of the Board and shall furnish satisfactory proof of
- 10 graduation from a program of veterinary technology or veterinary
- 11 | nursing accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association
- 12 and approved by the Board.
- B. The provisions of the Oklahoma Veterinary Practice Act shall
- 14 | not require a licensed veterinarian to hire a registered veterinary
- 15 technician nurse nor prohibit a licensed veterinarian from employing
- 16 a veterinary assistant. Licensed veterinarians may delegate animal
- 17 | care responsibilities to employees commensurate with their training,
- 18 experience, and skills.
- 19 C. On or before July 1 of each year, every registered
- 20 | veterinary technician nurse shall apply to the State Board of
- 21 | Veterinary Medical Examiners for a renewal certificate of
- 22 registration. Completion of the renewal certificate will permit the
- 23 veterinary technician nurse to be registered in Oklahoma during the
- 24 next fiscal year. Forms for the renewal registration shall be

- 1 | furnished by the Board. Each renewal application shall be
- 2 | accompanied by a renewal fee in an amount to be established by the
- 3 | Board by rule.
- 4 | SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2011, Section 698.25, is
- 5 amended to read as follows:
- 6 Section 698.25. The State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
- 7 | may revoke, suspend or refuse to renew the certificate of a
- 8 | registered veterinary technician nurse or place the registered
- 9 veterinary technician nurse on probation, after notice and
- 10 opportunity for a hearing, upon a determination based on clear and
- 11 | convincing evidence of a violation of the Oklahoma Veterinary
- 12 | Practice Act or rules promulgated or orders issued pursuant thereto
- 13 or any other law or rule relating to the practice of veterinary
- 14 medicine.
- 15 SECTION 6. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2011, Section 698.26, is
- 16 amended to read as follows:
- 17 | Section 698.26. A. It is unlawful for a registered veterinary
- 18 | technician nurse, veterinary technologist, veterinary nurse,
- 19 | veterinary assistant or other employee to diagnose animal diseases,
- 20 prescribe medical or surgical treatment, or perform as a surgeon and
- 21 | such acts shall constitute the unlawful practice of veterinary
- 22 | medicine as prohibited in Section 698.18 of this title.
- 23 B. It is unlawful for any person to assume the title of
- 24 | registered veterinary technician nurse, or the abbreviation RVT RVN,

- or any other words, letters, signs, or figures that might induce a person to believe that the person using the name is a registered veterinary technician nurse, when in fact such person is not certified.
 - C. A registered veterinary technician nurse may perform emergency treatments in a life saving lifesaving situation in accordance with rules promulgated by the Board.

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D. Except as provided in Section 698.18 of this title, any 8 9 person certified as a veterinary technician, veterinary 10 technologist, or registered veterinary nurse, or veterinary 11 assistant who practices veterinary medicine contrary to the 12 provisions of the Oklahoma Veterinary Practice Act, or any person who aids or abets another in the practice or attempted practice as a 13 veterinary technician, veterinary technologist, or registered 14 15 veterinary nurse, or veterinary assistant without license or 16 certification, or any person violating any provision of subsection B of this section, upon conviction, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor 17 punishable by a fine of not less than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) 18 nor more than Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00), or by 19 imprisonment in the county jail for a term of not less than thirty 20 (30) days, nor more than six (6) months, or by both such fine and 21 imprisonment. In addition to criminal penalties, the violator shall 22 be subject to denial, revocation, suspension, probation or 23 nonrenewal of certification by the Board. 24

- E. The penalties provided in subsection D of this section shall not apply to a student enrolled in an accredited school of veterinary technology while the student is under the supervision of an instructor and is performing activities required as a part of the student's training.
- F. Any veterinarian licensed in this state who permits or directs a veterinary technician <u>nurse</u>, veterinary technologist, <u>registered</u> veterinary nurse, aide or animal attendant to perform a task or procedure in violation of the provisions of the Oklahoma Veterinary Practice Act, upon conviction, shall be guilty of aiding or abetting the unlicensed practice of veterinary medicine as prohibited by Section 698.18 of this title, and shall be, in addition to any criminal penalties, subject to revocation, probation, nonrenewal or suspension of license by the Board.
 - SECTION 7. AMENDATORY 76 O.S. 2011, Section 32, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 77, O.S.L. 2012 (76 O.S. Supp. 2019, Section 32), is amended to read as follows:
- Section 32. A. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Volunteer Professional Services Immunity Act".
 - B. As used in the Volunteer Professional Services Immunity Act, "charitable clinic" means a nonprofit entity organized for the purpose of providing health care services without charge or for a minimal fee.

- C. Any volunteer professional or volunteer health practitioner and any organization that arranges for the care given by the volunteer professional shall be immune from liability in a civil action on the basis of any act or omission of the volunteer professional or volunteer health practitioner resulting in damage or injury if:
 - 1. The volunteer professional or volunteer health practitioner services were provided at a charitable clinic where the professional or practitioner receives no compensation for any treatment provided at the clinic;
 - 2. The volunteer professional or volunteer health practitioner was acting in good faith and, if licensed, the services provided were within the scope of the license of the volunteer professional or volunteer health practitioner;
- 3. The volunteer professional or volunteer health practitioner commits the act or omission in the course of providing services; and
- 4. The damage or injury was not caused by gross negligence or willful and wanton misconduct by the volunteer professional or volunteer health practitioner.
- D. In the event the volunteer professional or volunteer health practitioner refers the patient covered by this section to another volunteer professional or volunteer health practitioner for additional treatment, the referred volunteer professional or

1 volunteer health practitioner shall be subject to the provisions of 2 this section if:

- 1. The referred volunteer professional or volunteer health practitioner provides services without receiving any compensation for the treatment;
- 2. The referred volunteer professional or volunteer health practitioner was acting in good faith and, if licensed, the services provided were within the scope of the license of the referred volunteer professional or volunteer health practitioner;
- 3. The referred volunteer professional or volunteer health practitioner commits the act or omission in the course of providing services; and
- 4. The damage or injury was not caused by gross negligence or willful and wanton misconduct by the referred volunteer professional or volunteer health practitioner.
- E. The provisions of this section shall not affect the liability that any person may have which arises from the operation of a motor vehicle, watercraft, or aircraft in rendering the service, care, assistance, advice or other benefit as a volunteer professional or volunteer health practitioner.
- F. The immunity from civil liability provided by this section shall extend only to the actions taken by a person rendering the service, care, assistance, advice or other benefit as a volunteer professional or volunteer health practitioner, and does not confer

- any immunity to any person for actions taken by the volunteer

 professional or volunteer health practitioner prior to or after the

 rendering of the service, care, assistance, advice or other benefit

 as a volunteer professional or volunteer health practitioner.
- G. For the purpose of this section, the term "volunteer professional" and "referred volunteer professional" means a person who voluntarily provides professional medically related services without compensation or expectation of compensation of any kind. A volunteer professional or a referred volunteer professional shall include the following licensed professionals, including those persons licensed in accordance with Section 493.5 of Title 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes:
- 13 1. Physician;
- 14 2. Physician assistant;
- 15 3. Registered nurse;
- 4. Advanced practice nurse or vocational nurse;
- 17 5. Pharmacist;
- 18 6. Podiatrist;
- 7. Dentist or dental hygienist; or
- 20 8. Optometrist.

A volunteer professional shall be engaged in the active practice of a medical professional or retired from a medically related profession, if still eligible to provide medically related

professional services within this state.

1 H. For the purposes of this section, the term "volunteer health practitioner" and "referred volunteer health practitioner" means a 2 3 person who voluntarily provides health-related services without compensation or expectation of compensation of any kind. A 4 5 volunteer health practitioner or referred volunteer health practitioner shall include the following: 6 1. Certified nurse aide; 7 2. Chiropractor; 8 9 3. Dental assistant; Dental technician; 10 4. 5. Dietitian/nutritionist; 11 12 6. Emergency medical technician; 13 7. Licensed alcohol and drug counselor; Licensed behavioral practitioner; 8. 14 9. Licensed clinical social worker: 15 Licensed practical nurse; 16 10. 11. Licensed professional counselor; 17 Marital/family therapist; 12. 18 13. Medical assistant: 19 20 14. Medical laboratory technologist; 15. Medical technician; 21 16. Nuclear medicine technologist; 22 17. Occupational therapist; 23

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Orthopedic technologist;

- 19. Paramedic;
- 20. Pharmacy technician;
- 21. Physical therapist;
 - 22. Psychologist;
- 23. Radiology technician/technologist;
- 24. Respiratory therapist;
 - 25. Sonographer;
 - 26. Speech/language pathologist;
 - 27. Veterinarian; and
- 28. Veterinary technician nurse.

A volunteer health practitioner shall be engaged as an active health practitioner or retired from a health-related practice if still eligible to provide health-related services within this state.

I. Any person or entity participating in the Oklahoma Medical Reserve Corps and assisting with emergency management, emergency operations, or hazard mitigation in response to any emergency, manmade disaster, or natural disaster, or participating as authorized in public health initiatives, disaster drills, or other activities designed to strengthen emergency response that are endorsed by a city-county health department, county health department or the state health department in the State of Oklahoma, shall not be liable for civil damages on the basis of any act or omission, if:

1	1. The person was acting in good faith and within the scope of
2	the official duties and functions of the Oklahoma Medical Reserve
3	Corps; and
4	2. The acts or omissions were not caused from gross, willful,
5	or wanton acts of negligence.
6	J. This section shall apply to all civil actions filed on or
7	after:
8	1. November 1, 2004, for those persons listed in subsection G
9	of this section; and
10	2. November 1, 2009, for all other persons listed in subsection
11	H of this section.
12	SECTION 8. This act shall become effective November 1, 2020.
13	COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND WILDLIFE February 24, 2020 - DO PASS
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