



**ARIZONA STATE SENATE**  
*Fifty-Seventh Legislature, First Regular Session*

**AMENDED**  
FACT SHEET FOR S.B. 1658

veterinary technicians; certification; education alternative

Purpose

Adds an alternative pathway, through December 31, 2030, for a person to be certified as a veterinary technician in lieu of the prescribed educational requirement.

Background

The Arizona State Veterinary Medical Examining Board (Board) is charged with protecting the public from unlawful, incompetent, unqualified, impaired or unprofessional practitioners of veterinary medicine through licensure and regulation of the practice of veterinary medicine and the voluntary certification of veterinary technicians ([A.R.S. § 32-2207](#)).

A person desiring to be certified as a veterinary technician must apply in writing to the Board and meet the following requirements: 1) be at least 18 years old; 2) submit satisfactory evidence of graduation from a two-year curriculum in veterinary technology, or the equivalent of such graduation as determined by the Board, in a college or other institution approved by the Board; 3) pass a national and state veterinary technician examination as adopted by the Board in rules; and 4) pay all applicable fees. A certified veterinary technician may perform those services, authorized by the Board in accordance with statute, in the employment of and under the direction, supervision and control of a licensed veterinarian who must be responsible for the performance of the certified veterinary technician (A.R.S. §§ [32-2201](#) and [32-2242](#)).

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

Provisions

1. Allows an applicant for a veterinary technician certification to submit to the Board, through December 31, 2030, and in lieu of educational requirements, a record of having two years of on-the-job training or working for two years under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian where skills are learned in accordance with the veterinary technology student essential and recommended skill prescribed by the American Veterinary Medical Association's Center for Veterinary Education Accreditation's policies and procedures.
2. Requires the Board adopt rules governing the hours required for each skill.
3. Allows an applicant who satisfies the requirements for the alternative route of certification to take the Veterinary Technician National Examination and any state examination for veterinary technicians approved by the Board.

4. Requires the supervised work or training of the applicant to be subject to the approval of the Board and include:
  - a) a description of the skill or skills the applicant developed; and
  - b) the signature of the licensed veterinarian who directly supervised the applicant while the applicant worked on the skill.
5. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

Amendments Adopted by Committee

- Specifies that an applicant may apply for a veterinary technician certification using the alternative pathway through December 31, 2030.

Senate Action

RAGE      2/19/25      DPA      4-2-1

Prepared by Senate Research

February 19, 2025

JT/KP/ci