

The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs offered the following substitute to SB 76:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend various provisions of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated so as to redesignate  
2 veterinary technicians as veterinary nurses; to amend Chapter 50 of Title 43 of the Official  
3 Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to veterinarians and veterinary technicians, so as to  
4 reenact the State Board of Veterinary Medicine, subject to appropriations; to provide for  
5 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

**SECTION 1.**

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8 The Official Code of Georgia Annotated is amended in Code Section 4-11-17, relating to  
9 filing a report regarding animal cruelty and immunity, by replacing "veterinary technician"  
10 with "registered veterinary nurse".

**SECTION 2.**

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12 The Official Code of Georgia Annotated is amended by replacing "licensed veterinary  
13 technician" with "registered veterinary nurse" and by replacing "licensed veterinary  
14 technicians" with "registered veterinary nurses" each time the terms appear in:

- 15 (1) Code Section 43-50-2, relating to legislative purpose;  
16 (2) Code Section 43-50-21, relating to general powers of board and liberal construction of  
17 powers;  
18 (3) Code Section 43-50-41, relating to disciplinary action, subpoenas, judicial review,  
19 reinstatement, investigatory powers, immunity, failure to appear, and voluntary surrender of  
20 license;  
21 (4) Code Section 43-50-44, relating to exemptions from licensing;  
22 (5) Code Section 43-50-45, relating to unlawful acts, penalties, and injunctions;  
23 (6) Code Section 43-50-50, relating to purpose of part;  
24 (7) Code Section 43-50-51, relating to practice of veterinary technology by licensed  
25 veterinary technician;

- 26 (8) Code Section 43-50-52, relating to application for license as veterinary technician,  
 27 qualifications, examination, renewal, applicants registered in other states, and board's  
 28 responsibility;
- 29 (9) Code Section 43-50-53, relating to administration of examinations, reexamination, and  
 30 reactivation;
- 31 (10) Code Section 43-50-54, relating to supervision required of veterinary technician and  
 32 prohibited activities of technician;
- 33 (11) Code Section 43-50-55, relating to posting notice of use of licensed veterinary  
 34 technicians and proper identification;
- 35 (12) Code Section 43-50-56, relating to veterinarian responsible for licensed veterinary  
 36 technician's violations of limitations on duties;
- 37 (13) Code Section 43-50-62, relating to supervision required and prohibited uses of  
 38 veterinary assistant;
- 39 (14) Code Section 43-50-63, relating to posting notice of use of veterinary assistant and  
 40 proper identification required; and
- 41 (15) Code Section 43-50-90, relating to establishing standards for facilities and equipment  
 42 and monitoring, investigation, and enforcement actions.

### 43 SECTION 3.

44 Chapter 50 of Title 43, relating to veterinarians and veterinary technicians, is amended in  
 45 Code Section 43-50-3, relating to definitions, by revising paragraphs (33) and (34) and by  
 46 adding a new paragraph to read as follows:

47 "(27.1) 'Registered veterinary nurse' means a licensed person who engages in the practice  
 48 of veterinary technology and on the basis of his or her qualifications is validly and  
 49 currently licensed by the board for such purpose."

50 ~~"(33) 'Veterinary technician' means a licensed person who engages in the practice of~~  
 51 ~~veterinary technology and on the basis of his or her qualifications is validly and currently~~  
 52 ~~licensed by the board for such purpose.~~

53 ~~(34)~~(33) 'Veterinary technology' means the science and art of providing certain aspects  
 54 of professional medical care and treatment for animals and the practice of veterinary  
 55 medicine as may be delegated and supervised by a licensed veterinarian and performed  
 56 by a person who is not a licensed veterinarian."

### 57 SECTION 4.

58 Said chapter is further amended by repealing Code Section 43-50-20, relating to creation of  
 59 State Board of Veterinary Medicine, members, qualifications, vacancies, expenses, meetings,  
 60 and officers, and enacting a new Code Section 43-50-20 to read as follows:

61 "43-50-20.

62 (a) There shall be a State Board of Veterinary Medicine, the members of which shall be

63 appointed by the Governor with the approval of the Secretary of State and confirmation by

64 the Senate. The board shall consist of seven members, each appointed for a term of no

65 more than five years or until his or her successor is appointed. Five members of the board

66 shall be duly licensed veterinarians actually engaged in active practice for at least five

67 years prior to appointment. The sixth member shall be appointed from the public at large

68 and shall in no way be connected with the practice of veterinary medicine. The seventh

69 member shall be a registered veterinary nurse who has been registered and actively

70 engaged in the practice of veterinary technology or veterinary nursing for at least five years

71 prior to appointment. The initial appointment of the registered veterinary nurse shall expire

72 on June 30 in the fifth calendar year after this subsection becomes effective; thereafter,

73 successors shall be appointed for a term of five years. Those members of the State Board

74 of Veterinary Medicine serving on the effective date of this subsection shall continue to

75 serve as members of the board until the expiration of the term for which they were

76 appointed. Thereafter, successors to such board members shall be appointed in accordance

77 with this Code section. A majority of the board shall constitute a quorum.

78 (b) Vacancies due to death, resignation, removal, or otherwise shall be filled for the

79 remainder of the unexpired term in the same manner as regular appointments. No person

80 shall serve two consecutive five-year terms, but a person appointed for a term of less than

81 five years may succeed himself or herself.

82 (c) Each member of the board shall be reimbursed as provided for in subsection (f) of

83 Code Section 43-1-2.

84 (d) Any member of the board may be removed by the Governor after a hearing by the

85 board determines cause for removal.

86 (e) The board shall meet at least once each year at the time fixed by the board. Other

87 necessary meetings may be called by the president of the board by giving such notice as

88 shall be established by the board. Meetings shall be open and public except that the board

89 may meet in closed session as set forth in Code Section 50-14-3.

90 (f) At its annual meeting, the board shall organize by electing a president and such other

91 officers as may be required by the board. Officers of the board serve for terms of one year

92 and until a successor is elected, without limitation on the number of terms an officer may

93 serve. The president shall chair the board meetings.

94 (g) This Code section shall be subject to appropriations by the General Assembly."

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**SECTION 5.**

Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 43-50-40, relating to renewal of licenses, reinstatement, waiver of fee, continuing education, and inactive status, by revising subsection (c) and paragraph (1) of subsection (d) as follows:

"(c) The board may, by rule, waive the continuing education requirements and the payment of the renewal fee of a licensed veterinarian or ~~licensed veterinary technician~~ registered veterinary nurse during the period when he or she is on active duty with any branch of the armed forces of the United States.

(d)(1) The board shall establish continuing professional veterinary medical education requirements for the renewal of veterinary licenses. Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, no license to practice veterinary medicine or veterinary technology shall be renewed by the board or the division director until the licensee submits to the board satisfactory proof of his or her participation, during the biennium preceding his or her application for renewal, in approved programs of continuing education, as defined in this Code section. The amount of continuing veterinary medical education required of licensees per biennium by the board under this paragraph shall not be less than 30 hours for veterinarians and not be less than ten hours for ~~veterinary technicians~~ registered veterinary nurses and shall be established by board rule."

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**SECTION 6.**

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.