

Senate Bill 976

Sponsored by Senator NASH

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act says a person might be allowed to do certain jobs with animals, like taking care of horses' teeth or checking if cows are pregnant, even if they are not veterinarians. Allows the ODA to adopt rules to explain when this is okay. (Flesch Readability Score: 61.4).

Allows an individual to perform equine dentistry and to verify whether cattle are pregnant without holding a valid license issued by the Oregon State Veterinary Medical Examining Board under certain circumstances. Permits the State Department of Agriculture to adopt rules.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to providing animal health care; amending ORS 686.040.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 686.040, as amended by section 10, chapter 30, Oregon Laws 2024, is amended
5 to read:

6 686.040. (1) ORS 686.020 (1)(a) does not apply to **the following:**

7 (a) Commissioned veterinary officers of the United States Army, or those in the employ of other
8 United States Government agencies while engaged in their official capacity, unless they enter into
9 a private practice.

10 (b) **An individual who holds a valid degree or certification in equine dentistry and is**
11 **practicing equine dentistry within the scope of that degree or certification.**

12 (c) **An individual who has received training to verify whether cattle are pregnant and is**
13 **performing pregnancy verification services on cattle within the scope of the individual's**
14 **training.**

15 (2) Nothing in ORS 167.322 or 686.020 (1)(a) shall be so construed as to prevent any person or
16 the agent or employee of the person from practicing veterinary medicine and surgery or dentistry
17 in a humane manner on any animal belonging to the person, agent or employee or for gratuitous
18 services or from dehorning and vaccinating cattle for the person, agent or employee.

19 (3) Nothing in ORS 686.020 (1)(a) shall be so construed as to prevent the selling of veterinary
20 remedies and instruments by a licensed pharmacist at the regular place of business of the licensed
21 pharmacist.

22 (4) A practitioner of allied health methods may practice that method on animals without vio-
23 lating ORS 686.020 (1)(a), as long as the practice is in conformance with laws and rules governing
24 the practitioner's practice and the practice is upon referral from a licensed veterinarian for treat-
25 ment or therapy specified by the veterinarian.

26 (5) ORS 686.020 (1)(a) does not apply to the lay testing of poultry by the whole blood
27 agglutination test.

28 (6) A certified euthanasia technician holding an active, current certificate may inject sodium

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 pentobarbital, sedative and analgesic medications and any other euthanasia substance approved by
 2 the Oregon State Veterinary Medical Examining Board without violating ORS 686.020 (1)(a).

3 (7) The board by rule may specify circumstances under which unlicensed persons may give
 4 vaccinations, administer an anesthetic or otherwise assist in the practice of veterinary medicine.

5 (8) Any individual licensed as a veterinarian in another state may be used in consultation in this
 6 state with a person licensed to practice veterinary medicine in this state provided the consultation
 7 does not exceed 30 days in any 365 consecutive days.

8 (9) ORS 686.020 (1)(a) does not apply to authorized representatives of the State Department of
 9 Agriculture in the discharge of any duty authorized by the department.

10 (10) ORS 686.020 (1)(a) does not apply to an unlicensed representative of a livestock association,
 11 cow-testing association, or poultry association who, for the benefit of the association, takes blood
 12 samples for laboratory tests for the diagnosis of livestock or poultry diseases, but only if this person
 13 has received authorization from the State Department of Agriculture following a written request to
 14 the department.

15 (11) ORS 686.020 (1)(a) does not apply to persons permitted by the State Department of Fish and
 16 Wildlife to rehabilitate orphaned, sick or injured wildlife, as defined in ORS 496.004, for the purpose
 17 of restoring the animals to the wild.

18 (12) ORS 686.020 (1)(a) does not apply to students, agents or employees of public or private ed-
 19 ucational or medical research institutions involved in educational or research activities under the
 20 auspices of those institutions.

21 (13) ORS 686.020 (1)(a) does not apply to:

22 (a) Veterinarians employed by Oregon State University;

23 (b) Instructors of veterinary courses; or

24 (c) Students of veterinary science who participate in the diagnosis and treatment of animals if
 25 the students:

26 (A) Are participating in the diagnosis and treatment of animals while engaged in an educational
 27 program approved by the board or a college of veterinary medicine accredited by the American
 28 Veterinary Medical Association; and

29 (B) Are under the direct supervision of an Oregon licensed veterinarian or a veterinarian ap-
 30 proved by the board or Oregon State University to supervise students in the educational program.

31 **(14) The State Department of Agriculture may by rule specify circumstances under which**
 32 **unlicensed persons may engage in activities described in subsection (1)(b) and (c) of this**
 33 **section.**

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