

SENATE AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 976

By COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDFIRE

April 7

1 On page 1 of the printed bill, line 2, after “care;” delete the rest of the line and insert “creating
2 new provisions; amending ORS 596.321 and 686.040; and declaring an emergency.”.

3 Delete lines 4 through 28 and delete page 2 and insert:

4 “**SECTION 1.** ORS 686.040, as amended by section 10, chapter 30, Oregon Laws 2024, is
5 amended 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
8 other United States Government agencies while engaged in their official capacity, unless they enter
9 into a private practice.

10 “(b) **An individual who has received training to verify whether cattle are pregnant and**
11 **is performing pregnancy verification services on cattle within the scope of the individual’s**
12 **training.**

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

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

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

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

26 “(6) A certified euthanasia technician holding an active, current certificate may inject sodium
27 pentobarbital, sedative and analgesic medications and any other euthanasia substance approved by
28 the Oregon State Veterinary Medical Examining Board without violating ORS 686.020 (1)(a).

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

31 “(8) Any individual licensed as a veterinarian in another state may be used in consultation in
32 this state with a person licensed to practice veterinary medicine in this state provided the consul-
33 tation does not exceed 30 days in any 365 consecutive days.

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

1 “(10) ORS 686.020 (1)(a) does not apply to an unlicensed representative of a livestock associ-
2 ation, cow-testing association, or poultry association who, for the benefit of the association, takes
3 blood samples for laboratory tests for the diagnosis of livestock or poultry diseases, but only if this
4 person has received authorization from the State Department of Agriculture following a written re-
5 quest to the department.

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

9 “(12) ORS 686.020 (1)(a) does not apply to students, agents or employees of public or private
10 educational or medical research institutions involved in educational or research activities under the
11 auspices of those institutions.

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

13 “(a) Veterinarians employed by Oregon State University;

14 “(b) Instructors of veterinary courses; or

15 “(c) Students of veterinary science who participate in the diagnosis and treatment of animals if
16 the students:

17 “(A) Are participating in the diagnosis and treatment of animals while engaged in an educa-
18 tional program approved by the board or a college of veterinary medicine accredited by the Ameri-
19 can Veterinary Medical Association; and

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

22 “(14) **The State Department of Agriculture shall by rule specify circumstances under**
23 **which unlicensed persons may engage in activities described in subsection (1)(b) of this sec-**
24 **tion.**

25 “(15) **The department shall inform individuals authorized to verify whether cattle are**
26 **pregnant of the requirement to report livestock diseases as required under ORS 596.321.**

27 “**SECTION 2.** ORS 596.321 is amended to read:

28 “596.321. (1) The State Department of Agriculture shall enact rules and regulations:

29 “(a) Containing a list of livestock diseases that must be reported to the department by any
30 person practicing veterinary medicine in this state.

31 “(b) Concerning the time and manner of reporting livestock diseases and any other information
32 considered reasonably necessary by the department.

33 “(c) Regarding the time and manner of vaccinating female cattle against brucellosis.

34 “(2) Any person practicing veterinary medicine in this state, having knowledge of the existence
35 of any livestock disease listed pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, shall immediately report the
36 disease to the department in the manner provided by rule or regulation.

37 “(3) **For the purposes of this section, ‘practicing veterinary medicine’ includes individuals**
38 **authorized to verify whether cattle are pregnant under ORS 686.040 (1)(b).**

39 “**SECTION 3.** **The amendments to ORS 596.321 and 686.040 by sections 1 and 2 of this 2025**
40 **Act become operative on January 1, 2026.**

41 “**SECTION 4.** (1) **The Task Force on Equine Dentistry is established.**

42 “(2) **The task force consists of five members appointed by the Director of Agriculture as**
43 **follows:**

44 “(a) **Two members who represent statewide agriculture or livestock organizations.**

45 “(b) **One member who represents a statewide veterinarian organization.**

1 “(c) One member who represents the State Department of Agriculture.

2 “(d) One member who is the State Veterinarian, or the State Veterinarian’s designee.

3 “(3) The task force shall identify ways to provide greater access to equine dentistry
4 throughout Oregon.

5 “(4) A majority of the members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the trans-
6 action of business.

7 “(5) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the members
8 of the task force.

9 “(6) The Director of Agriculture shall select one member of the task force to serve as
10 chairperson and another to serve as vice chairperson, for the terms and with the duties and
11 powers necessary for the performance of the functions of the offices as the director deter-
12 mines.

13 “(7) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appoint-
14 ment to become immediately effective.

15 “(8) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson
16 or of a majority of the members of the task force.

17 “(9) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task force.

18 “(10) The task force shall submit a report in the manner provided in ORS 192.245, and
19 may include recommendations for legislation to an interim committee of the Legislative As-
20 sembly related to agriculture no later than December 15, 2025.

21 “(11) The State Department of Agriculture shall provide staff support to the task force.

22 “(12) Members of the task force serve as volunteers on the task force and, unless they
23 are qualified members, as defined in ORS 292.495, are not entitled to compensation or re-
24 imbursement for expenses.

25 “(13) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist
26 the task force in the performance of the duties of the task force and, to the extent permitted
27 by laws relating to confidentiality, to furnish information and advice the members of the task
28 force consider necessary to perform their duties.

29 “(14) All appointments to the task force made under subsection (2) of this section must
30 be completed not more than 60 days after the effective date of this 2025 Act.

31 “SECTION 5. Section 4 of this 2025 Act is repealed on December 31, 2026.

32 “SECTION 6. This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
33 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect
34 on its passage.”.