

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A PROPOSED AMENDMENT
TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
CHAPTER 700-7, RENEWAL OF LICENSE, RULE 700-7-.03, CONTINUING
VETERINARY EDUCATION, AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine (hereinafter "Board") proposes an amendment to Rule Chapter 700-7, Renewal of License, Rule 700-7-.03, Continuing Veterinary Education, (hereinafter "proposed rule amendment").

This notice, together with an exact copy of the proposed rule amendment and a synopsis of the proposed rule amendment, is being disseminated to all persons who have requested, in writing, that they be placed on a distribution list. A copy of this notice, an exact copy of the proposed rule amendment, and a synopsis of the proposed rule amendment may be reviewed during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except official State holidays, at the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. These documents will also be available for review on the Board website <http://sos.ga.gov/index.php/licensing/plb/53>, or by contacting the Board office at 478-207-2440.

A public hearing is scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. on October 19, 2016, in the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217 to provide the public an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the proposed rule amendment.

At the public hearing anyone may present data, make a statement, comment or offer a viewpoint or argument whether orally or in writing. Lengthy statements or statements of a considerable technical or economic nature, as well as previously recorded messages, must be submitted for the official record. Oral statements should be concise and will be limited to five (5) minutes per person. Written comments are welcomed. Such written comments must be legible and signed, should contain contact information from the maker (address, telephone number and/or facsimile number, etc.) and be actually received in the office prior to the close of business (5:00 p.m. EDT) on October 12, 2016. Written comments should be addressed to Lisa W. Durden, Director, Office of Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217; Fax (866) 888-7127.

The Board will consider the proposed rule amendment for adoption at its meeting scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. on October 19, 2016 at the Georgia Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. According to the Department of Law, State of Georgia, the Board has the authority to adopt proposed rule amendment to 700-7-.03 pursuant to authority contained in O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-24, 43-1-25, 43-50-2, 43-50-21, 43-50-26 and 43-50-40.

At its meeting April 20, 2016, the Board voted that the formulation and adoption of this rule does not impose excessive regulatory cost on any licensee and any cost to comply with the proposed rule cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-24, 43-1-25, 43-50-2, 43-50-21, 43-50-26 and 43-50-40.

Additionally, at its meeting April 20, 2016, the Board voted that it is not legal or feasible to meet the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-24, 43-1-25, 43-50-2, 43-50-21, 43-50-26 and 43-50-40 to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed in O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(3)(A), (B), (C), and (D). The formulation and adoption of these rules will impact every licensee in the same manner and each licensee is independently licensed in the field of veterinary medicine.

For further information, contact the Board office at (478) 207-2440.

This notice is given in compliance with Section 4(a)(1) of the Georgia Administrative Procedures Act (O.C.G.A. §50-13-4).

This 28 day of July, 2016.



Lisa W. Durden
Director
Professional Licensing Boards

Posted: 28 July 2016

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF
VETERINARY MEDICINE RULE FOR CHAPTER 700-7, RENEWAL OF LICENSE,
RULE 700-7-.03, CONTINUING VETERINARY EDUCATION.**

Purpose: The purpose of this rule amendment is to further define the requirements of continuing veterinary education to include American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) revised Registry of Approved Continuing Education (RACE) Standards

Main Features: The amendments further clarify the general requirements of continuing veterinary education and how credit hours may be earned. Additional language was inserted to clarify and define subject matter which will become effective January 1, 2017.

**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EXISTING RULE AND THE PROPOSED
AMENDMENTS TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
RULE FOR CHAPTER 700-7, RENEWAL OF LICENSE, RULE 700-7-.03,
CONTINUING VETERINARY EDUCATION.**

[Note: underlined text is proposed to be added; lined-through text is proposed to be deleted.]

Rule 700-7-.03. Continuing Veterinary Education

The Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine in accordance with the provisions of State Law and for the purpose of establishing certain minimum standards for continuing education in the best interest of and for the protection of the public health, safety and welfare hereby adopts the following rule:

(a) General Requirements:

1. Each veterinarian licensed to practice in the State of Georgia must obtain thirty (30) hours of Board approved continuing education per biennium for license renewal. ~~Effective January 1, 2009,~~

(i) Of the thirty (30) hours required, two (2) per renewal period must be acquired in Georgia laws, rules and professionalism. ~~Effective January 1, 2011, of the two (2) hours; one (1) of which~~ must be acquired in person. Georgia licensees who do not practice in the State of Georgia are not required to meet the two (2) hour requirement in Georgia laws, rules and professionalism; ~~and-~~

(ii) Effective January 1, 2017, eighteen (18) of the thirty (30) hours must include scientific subject matter. Scientific subject matter includes all conventional medical and surgical sub-categories that are evidence based in addition to the science of diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease as it relates directly to patients and includes a comprehensive range of the practice of veterinary medicine.

2. At the time of license renewal, each veterinarian shall certify to the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine that he/she has completed the continuing education required for license renewal.

3. A veterinarian licensed during the first year of a biennium must obtain fifteen (15) hours of continuing education and is not required to meet the two (2) hour requirement in Georgia laws, rules and professionalism. A veterinarian licensed during the second year of a biennium is exempt from obtaining continuing education for that renewal period. After this time period, the entire thirty (30) hours is required for each renewal.

4. In the event that a veterinarian fails to verify or submit documentation of continuing education credits at the same time of renewal of his/her license, the Board will not process his/her renewal until continuing education requirements have been met and proof of such has been received and approved by the Board. If documentation of continuing education is requested and not received by the Board prior to the expiration date, the license will expire.

5. A veterinarian may not carry over continuing education credits from one biennium license renewal period to the next.

6. Each veterinarian must maintain a record of credit hours earned and proof of attendance of such hours for a period of three years from the date of the preceding renewal period and must provide the Board with said documentation upon request.

7. Veterinarians who attend programs where more than one course is taught must maintain proof of the courses attended and the number of hours awarded for each course.

(b) Approved Continuing Education Programs and Hours:

1. Blanket approval is awarded to any National, State and International veterinary association meetings, United States Department of Agriculture and Georgia Department of Agriculture sponsored meeting, Board Certified Specialties programs recognized by the American Veterinary Medical Association, all AVMA accredited veterinary college or school sponsored classes and programs, all AAVSB RACE approved programs, any GVMA constituent organization programs, AAHA programs, programs sponsored by the United States or Southern Animal Health Association and any course approved by another state board. Blanket approval does not apply to any continuing education programs on Georgia laws, rules and professionalism.

2. Prior approval must be granted for any courses not offered by a blanket approved organization. Such requests shall include the following:

(i) a detailed course outline or syllabus;

(ii) a current curriculum must be provided for each speaker or lecturer;

(iii) the procedure to be used for recording attendance;

(iv) the number of continuing education hours for which the course sponsor requests approval.

3. In addition to the LEAP requirements, the remaining Ccredit hours may be earned as follows:

(i) One (1) hour may be given for each 50 minutes of contact time. Seminars are composed of lectures or labs; welcoming remarks, business sessions, unstructured demonstrations or degree programs are not considered seminars.

(ii) ~~Not more than three (3) hours can be for veterinary audio review.~~ Three (3) hours can be for journal studies where follow-up testing is required. Fifteen (15) hours of interactive computer generated courses will be allowed. Follow-up testing is required.

~~(iii) Not more than five (5) hours for hospital management.~~

~~(iv) A maximum of twenty (20) hours will be allowed for any one meeting~~

~~(viii)~~ A maximum of twelve (12) hours will be allowed per calendar day.

~~(vi)~~ A maximum of six (6) hours for veterinarians can be acquired through in house training at the licensees' place of employment.

~~(vii)~~ A maximum of ten (10) hours can be acquired through in house training for veterinary faculty at AVMA accredited institutions.

(c) Continuing Education Audit:

1. During the renewal period, the Board staff will randomly select up to 25% of its licensees to audit for continuing education compliance. If selected for continuing education audit, each licensee must submit continuing education records to meet the renewal requirements for that license renewal period.

(d) Provider and Sponsor Criteria: All providers and sponsors must provide the following information to the Board if they have not been awarded blanket approval:

1. Each sponsor or provider shall have an administrator whose responsibility is to maintain the criteria for quality in programming.

2. Providers shall use qualified personnel to develop and present the programs, which shall utilize appropriate instructional materials and resources.

3. Providers shall provide to the Board adequate advanced promotional information, material about target audiences, program content, faculty credentials and fees.

4. Providers shall provide a means of registration of the participants at each program and maintain a record of attendance for a period of three years from the date of the program.

5. Providers shall develop policies and procedures for the management of grievances.

6. Providers shall provide each participant with adequate documentation of his/her successful completion of the program. The documentation shall include:

(i) Name and license number of participant;

(ii) Name of provider;

(iii) Name and title of program;

(iv) Hours/CEU's completed;

(v) Date of completion; and

(vi) Authorizing signature.

7. All continuing education providers seeking approval of the continuing education program by the Georgia State Board of Veterinary shall submit a Program Approval Form for each program presented. These forms should be submitted 60 days in advance.

Authority: O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-24, 43-1-25, 43-50-2, 43-50-21, 43-50-26, 43-50-40.

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(ii) Effective January 1, 2017, eighteen (18) of the thirty (30) hours must include scientific subject matter. Scientific subject matter includes all conventional medical and surgical sub-categories that are evidence based in addition to the science of diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease as it relates directly to patients and includes a comprehensive range of the practice of veterinary medicine.

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