

**GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**  
**Rules Committee WebEx Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, May 13, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.**

The Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine, Rules Committee, met via WebEx on Wednesday, May 13, 2026. The following Committee members were present:

**Committee Members Present**

Dr. William Wright, DVM, Committee Chair  
Dr. Wendy Cuevas, DVM, Committee Vice Chair  
Dr. Seth Stowers, DVM, Committee Member

**Staff Present**

Adrienne Price, Executive Director  
Meagan Doss, Licensing Supervisor  
Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist  
Monessa Cuby, Licensing and Complaints/Compliance Analyst  
Shunyetta Pitts, Temporary Employee

**Committee Members Absent**

No Committee Members absent.

**Attorney General's Office**

No Assistant Attorney General present.

**Visitors Present**

Dr. Keri Riddick, DVM, Executive Director, Georgia Veterinary Medical Association (GVMA)  
Dr. Doris Miller, DVM, PhD, DACVP, University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine (UGACVM), Associate Director of State Government Relations

**Call to Order:** Dr. Wright called the Committee meeting to order at 9:16 a.m.

**OPEN SESSION**

**Agenda**           The Committee accepts the agenda as presented.

**Discussion – Board Rules**

**1. Discussion – Qualifications to Practice Telemedicine\_O.C.G.A. §§ 43-50-30, 43-50-120, 43-50-121**

The Committee tabled further review of telemedicine, teleadvice, and telerriage rules pending additional guidance from the Board considering the passing of HB 1195.

**2. Discussion – Veterinary Specialist - Foreign Trained Application O.C.G.A. § 43-50-31(B)(i-ii)**

**Rule 700-13-.02. ~~{Repealed}~~ Veterinary Specialist License for Foreign Educated Graduates**

- (1) An applicant for licensure as a veterinary specialist who is a graduate of a foreign college or school of veterinary medicine shall only be authorized upon licensure to practice veterinary medicine in the area of his or her certified veterinary medicine specialty. Any other practice of veterinary medicine shall be deemed a violation of subsection (a) of Code Section 43-50-30 and subsection (a) of Code Section 43-50-45.
- (2) To qualify for a veterinary specialist license, the applicant shall make application in the manner as prescribed by the Board to include, but not be limited to, submitting:
  - (a) All fees in an amount established by the Board;
  - (b) Any forms or documents required by the Board, to include but not limited to, an Affidavit of Citizenship, an unexpired Secure and Verifiable Document, and Background Consent Form.
  - (c) A transcript certifying completion of his or her education in veterinary medicine from a foreign college or school of veterinary medicine. Transcripts must be translated into English and submitted directly to the Board from a credential evaluation agency approved by the Board; or the applicant may cause:

1. The AVMA to provide an official copy of the applicant's ECFVG certificate or its substantial equivalent; or,

2. The AAVSB to submit an official copy of the applicant's PAVE certificate or its substantial equivalent.

(ed) Proof of completing a residency program or similar training duration program of two or more years. Such proof must be submitted directly from the certifying body to the Board.

(ee) Proof of board certification from a veterinary medicine specialty organization recognized by the American Veterinary Medical Association, the American Board of Veterinary Specialties, or other American Veterinary Medical Association board approved organization. Such proof must be submitted directly from the certifying body to the Board.

(ef) Verification of licensure in all states in which the applicant holds a license or has ever held a license.

(eg) Employment history of veterinary practice in the area of certified veterinary medicine specialty.

(eh) Passing score on the Veterinarian Law Exam.

(3) An applicant must furnish evidence satisfactory to the Board of all qualifications for licensure.

(4) Additional information or verification of credentials may be required by the Board.

(5) All applications for licensure must be complete within the timeframe indicated in the Joint Secretary Rules and policies. All applications not completed within this designated timeframe shall be considered expired and withdrawn. Following expiration of an application, a new application in its entirety, to include all fees, shall be submitted for consideration of licensure.

### **Rule 700-13-.03. Veterinary Specialist License Renewal**

(1) Every veterinary specialist license issued by the Board shall expire on December 31 of the even numbered years and shall be renewable biennially in accordance with the Official Code of Georgia Annotated Section 43-50-40 upon submission of:

(a) A complete renewal application, to include but not limited to proof of current certification in the area of veterinary medicine specialty.

(b) Payment of the biennial license fees.

(c) Proof of completing thirty (30) hours of board approved continuing veterinary education within the biennium. Such proof must be recorded in the continuing education tracking solution approved by the Office of Secretary of State.

1. For the purposes of this requirement, the Office of the Secretary of State adopts the utilization of CE Broker, Inc.

2. Every veterinary specialist subject this rule shall be deemed to have given such person's consent to the Board and its representatives to access their continuing competence record retained within the online database for the purpose of auditing and verifying completion of the Board's continuing education requirements.

3. The license shall not be renewed if all required continuing education is not recorded in the continuing education tracking solution as required.

4. The Board staff will randomly select a percentage of licensees to audit for continuing veterinary education compliance and shall audit licensees who are the subject of a complaint investigation and/or have an active consent order or agreement with the Board.

- (2) The holder of a veterinary specialist license may be subject to sanctions as provided in O.C.G.A. § 43-50-41.
- (3) Any veterinary specialist who has not submitted a complete application and fee and proof of completion of required continuing veterinary education in the manner prescribed by the Board shall be administratively lapsed for failure to renew. **The license may be reinstated in accordance with rules of the Board.**
- (4) Any licensee whose address changes must update their address information online via the Board website or notify the Board in writing within 30 days of that change of address.

#### **Rule 700-13-.04. Veterinary Specialist Continuing Veterinary Education Requirements**

- (1) Every veterinary specialist license issued by the Board must obtain thirty (30) hours of Board approved continuing veterinary education within the biennium for license renewal. Of the thirty (30) hours required:
  - (a) Five (5) must be acquired in Georgia laws, rules and professionalism, which may be acquired in person or by live, interactive webinars that include measures to ensure active participation throughout the course.
  - (b) Twenty (20) must be acquired from AVMA-recognized veterinary specialty organizations and AVMA-recognized veterinary specialties.
  - (c) Five (5) may be from any National, State and International veterinary association, AAVSB RACE approved program, the United States Department of Agriculture or the Georgia Department of Agriculture.
    - 1. For the purposes of this requirement, the Office of the Secretary of State adopts the utilization of CE Broker, Inc.
    - 2. Every veterinary specialist subject this rule shall be deemed to have given such person's consent to the Board and its representatives to access their continuing veterinary education record retained within the online database for the purpose of auditing and verifying completion of the Board's continuing veterinary education requirements.
    - 3. The license shall not be renewed if all required continuing veterinary education is not recorded in the continuing education tracking solution as required.
    - 4. The Board staff will randomly select a percentage of licensees to audit for continuing veterinary education compliance and shall audit licensees who are the subject of a complaint investigation and/or have an active consent order or agreement with the Board.
- (2) All continuing veterinary education certificates entered in the continuing education tracking solution approved by the Office of Secretary of State shall include:
  - (a) Name and license number of participant;
  - (b) Name of provider or sponsor;
  - (c) Name and title of program to include the date and time each individual course was offered;
  - (d) Location or platform (i.e., synchronous, asynchronous, self-study, online, interactive webinar, etc.);
  - (e) Hours/CEU's completed;
  - (f) Date of completion; and,
  - (g) Authorizing signature.

- (3) Veterinary Specialists licensed during the first year of the biennium must obtain fifteen (15) hours of continuing education from AVMA-recognized veterinary specialty organizations and AVMA-recognized veterinary specialties and shall not be required to meet the five (5) hour requirement in Georgia laws, rules and professionalism. Veterinary Specialists licensed during the second year of a biennium are exempt from obtaining continuing veterinary education for that renewal period. After this time period, the entire thirty (30) hours is required for each renewal.
- (4) A veterinary specialist may not carry over continuing veterinary education credits from one biennium license renewal period to the next.
- (5) Continuing veterinary education hours submitted for the purposes of renewing or reinstating a license or to satisfy the conditions of a disciplinary action issued by the Board may not be resubmitted to meet continuing veterinary education requirements for renewal.

**Rule 700-13-.05. Reinstatement of Veterinary Specialist License**

- (1) A failure to renew shall have the same force and effect as a revocation of said license as provided in Sec. 43-1-19(1) of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. Licenses administratively lapsed for failure to renew may, in ~~the Board's discretion~~ accordance with Board Rules, be reinstated; and, as a condition thereof, the Board may impose any disciplinary or corrective method provided by law.
- (2) For purposes of this regulation, the administrative lapsing of license for failure to renew shall not be treated as a disciplinary action or contested case.
- (3) To return a veterinary specialist license to active status, an individual shall submit a complete application for reinstatement and fee, which shall include, but may not be limited to, meeting the requirements of Board Rule 700-13-.02, providing proof of completion of continuing education within the two years prior to seeking reinstatement as required in Board Rule 700-13-.04, and proof of current certification in the area of veterinary medicine specialty.

**Rule 700-13-.06. Inactivation of Veterinary Specialist License**

- (1) A veterinary specialist who wishes to discontinue the practice of veterinary medicine in their area of certified veterinary medicine specialty may apply for an "inactive license." A veterinary specialist holding an "inactive license" may not practice.
- (2) A licensee who holds a valid current active veterinary specialist license in the State of Georgia may request the license be placed on inactive status by submitting an application to the Board which shall require the licensee to attest to the following statement:
  - (a) "I understand that with an inactive license I shall not engage in the practice of veterinary medicine as a veterinary specialist and shall not hold myself out to the public as being available to provide veterinary services~~I understand that with an inactive license I shall not engage in the practice of veterinary medicine as a veterinarian or~~ ~~\_\_\_\_\_ veterinary technician and shall not hold myself out to the public as being available to provide veterinary services."~~
  - (b) "I understand that I am not required to renew said license while on inactive status."
  - (c) "I understand I am not required to obtain the continuing education credits while on inactive status unless I request to be placed on active status."
  - (d) "I understand that to practice or to hold oneself out as available to practice veterinary medicine as a veterinary specialist with an inactive license is unlicensed practice, and I would be subject to disciplinary action~~I understand that to practice or to hold oneself out as available to practice veterinary medicine with an inactive license is~~ ~~\_\_\_\_\_ unlicensed practice and I would be subject to disciplinary action."~~
- (3) A licensee holding an inactive ~~veterinary specialist~~ license may seek active status by submitting a reinstatement application in accordance with Board Rule 700-3-.04.

Adrienne Price joined the meeting at 10.42 a.m.

The amendments to Board Rules Chapter 700-13 are specifically applicable to foreign educated veterinarians who do not meet all license requirements as they will now have rules to reference when applying for a veterinary specialist license to practice in their specialty only. Those veterinarians who qualify for a regular license do not have to submit a veterinary specialist application to practice in that specialty.

Dr. Cuevas stated if a foreign educated applicant attended an AVMA accredited school, they should be granted a specialty license. All specialty programs listed by AVMA are acceptable to the Committee. Dr. Wright and Dr. Stowers agreed that the documentation required should be both the specialty certificate and documentation of completing an accredited AVMA residency or similar training program.

The Committee determined that the documentation necessary to ensure that the foreign educated person applying for this license type will only practice in that certified veterinary medicine specialty should be a certified letter from employer that they are qualified in that specialty and will only be operating in that capacity. Ms. Price noted that some of these persons may practice independently; therefore, the best option is to require these applicants to attest that they understand that they may only practice within their specialty. It was the consensus that this requirement should be added to the application requirements and that the Board should review these applications rather than give administrative authority for staff to review between meetings. The Committee concluded that the license type should be eligible for inactive status.

The Committee determined that the reason to promulgate amendments to this rules chapter is to meet the policy objectives of the statute and facilitate the process for foreign trained veterinarians to obtain licensure in the state of Georgia in accordance with the law. The policy purpose of the rules chapter is to ensure competent practitioners by certifying the applicant is graduating from an AVMA accredited residency and completed an AVMA-recognized veterinary specialty organizations and AVMA-recognized veterinary specialties. The purpose is also to expand access to care by allowing for more specialists in the respective fields to practice within the scope of their specialty in areas where there are few to no veterinary specialists. And the promulgation of the rules chapter carries out policy objectives that are expressed in a statute which gives guidance to foreign educated practitioners who qualify for this license type.

The Committee considered multiple variations of the rule chapter and determined this is the best choice because it is the clearest and most concise form presented for final review. The Committee also safeguarded the public and practitioners by ensuring the rules chapter is the least restrictive way in which to accomplish the State's policy. The Committee also reviewed how other states are handling this issue when making their recommendations.

The independent support for the rules chapter is from stakeholders such as the Georgia Veterinary Medical Association (GVMA) and licensees. The substantiated examples of harm in the absence of the rules chapter amendment come from complaints received by the Board. Additionally, independent support comes from American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) national standards.

The rules chapter amendments will affect foreign graduates in the veterinary medicine field with specialty certificates which allows them a pathway to licensure. The Committee entered into a discussion on the economic impact of the rules chapter amendments and determined there is a positive economic impact on businesses and foreign educated licensees by increasing access to veterinary specialists which generates revenue for the business and the licensee while providing service to the public.

The Committee referred Chapter 700-13. Veterinary Specialist to the full Board for review.

### **3. Discussion – Temporary VET\_VETT License Applications**

#### **A. Rule 700-2-.04 Temporary Veterinary License**

##### **Rule 700-2-.04. Registered Temporary Veterinary License for Shelters and Sterilization Clinics**

- (1) A one-time, six-month temporary veterinary license may be granted for practice in government or nonprofit shelter medicine, nonprofit sterilization clinics, and nonprofit mobile sterilization programs registered with this state.
- (2) To qualify, the applicant must submit:

- (a) A complete application in the manner required by the Board along with the application fee established by the Board; and,
  - (b) A verification of licensure from another state which training, experience, and testing substantially meet or exceed the requirements of this state to obtain a license; and,
  - (c) Proof of obtaining a specialty, certification, training, or other experience while employed in another state which substantially meets or exceeds the requirement to obtain a license in this state.
  - (d) Proof of employment at a nonprofit government, municipal, shelter, sterilization clinic or mobile sterilization program registered as a 501(c)(3) organization with the Georgia Office of Secretary of State's Securities and Charities Division.
  - (e) Passing score of the Veterinarian Law Exam.
- (3) Issuance of a temporary veterinary license shall authorize the holder to practice in this state for a period of up to six (6) months from the date of issuance.
  - (4) The holder of a temporary veterinary license may be subject to sanctions as provided in O.C.G.A. § [43-50-41](#).
  - (5) Once the temporary veterinary license expires, it shall not be renewed, and the license holder must cease the practice of veterinary medicine in the State of Georgia unless and until he or she becomes licensed as a veterinarian by the Board.

The purpose of the rule amendment is to clearly outline what the applicant must provide to be eligible for a temporary license to practice in government or nonprofit shelter medicine, nonprofit sterilization clinics, and nonprofit mobile sterilization programs registered with this state, and to differentiate this temporary license from the military temporary license on the website and within the Georgia Online Applications and Licensing system (GOALS). The requirement that the organization be registered as a 501(c)(3) with the Georgia Office of Secretary of State's Securities and Charities Division as well as the requirement that the applicants pass the law exam were included in the amendment. Because this temporary license is only for six (6) months, there are no renewal or CE requirements for this license type. The Committee agreed that proof of employment must be provided at the registered non-profit should be required in the application process.

The Committee determined that the purpose for the rule amendment is to better clarify who specifically is eligible for the temporary license, as well as how the Board determines if an organization where the applicant is employed meets the statutory requirements. Requiring a passing score on the law exam was added for public protection to ensure that the applicant understands the laws and rules under which they may practice if the temporary license is issued. The policy purpose of the rule amendment is to prohibit/prevent unsafe practices and/or fraud by ensuring the Board is licensing practitioners who satisfy the statutory requirements. The rule amendment ensures competent practitioners by verifying applicants have passed the law exam and graduated from an accredited school. The amendment expands access to care/services by allowing for more shelter medicine practitioners to practice in Georgia on a temporary basis if they do not choose to become licensed. By providing this pathway to licensure, there can be enough qualified practitioners lawfully helping to control the pet population. Therefore, the rule amendment creates increased care for shelter animals. The rule amendment carries out policy objectives that are expressed in a statute by ensuring eligible and qualified persons have a pathway to licensure on a temporary basis to work for nonprofit organizations in Georgia.

The Committee considered multiple variations of the rule amendment and determined this is the most clear and concise way to establish their objectives and is the least restrictive way to accomplish the State's policy. Independent support for the rule amendment derives from stakeholder comments to include Georgia Veterinary Medical Association (GVMA), practitioners, and from the State Veterinarian with the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA). Substantiated examples of harm in the absence of a rule amendment came from shelter groups' reporting a back log in spay and neuters and the over-population of companion animals, particularly in rural areas. American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) national standards were taken into consideration.

The rule amendment will affect the shelter medicine practitioner and allow ease of access from out of state practitioners to come practice in Georgia if they are working for a Georgia non-profit organization. The rule amendment will also benefit the

public by increasing access to care at low-cost clinics. The Committee entered into a discussion regarding the economic impact of the amendment and determined that the impact will be neutral as it applies to animals not being treated in a private practice clinic.

**B. Rule 700-6-.02. Registered Temporary Veterinary Technician License for Shelters and Sterilization Clinics**

- (1) A one-time, six-month temporary veterinary technician license may be granted for practice in government or nonprofit shelter medicine, nonprofit sterilization clinics, and nonprofit mobile sterilization programs registered with this state.
- (2) To qualify, the applicant must submit:
  - (a) A complete application in the manner required by the Board along with the application fee established by the Board; and,
  - (b) A verification of licensure from another state which training, experience, and testing substantially meet or exceed the requirements of this state to obtain a license; and,
  - (c) Proof of obtaining a specialty, certification, training, or other experience while employed in another state which substantially meets or exceeds the requirement to obtain a license in this state.
  - (d) Proof of employment at a nonprofit government, municipal, shelter, sterilization clinic or mobile sterilization program registered as a 501(c)(3) organization with the Georgia Office of Secretary of State's Securities and Charities Division.
  - (e) Passing score of the Veterinary Technician Law Exam.
- (3) Issuance of a temporary veterinary technician license shall authorize the holder to practice in this state for a period of up to six (6) months from the date of issuance.
- (4) The holder of a temporary veterinary technician license may be subject to sanctions as provided in O.C.G.A. § 43-50-41.
- (5) Once the temporary license expires, it shall not be renewed, and the license holder must cease the practice of veterinary medicine in the State of Georgia unless and until he or she becomes licensed as a veterinary technician by the Board.

The purpose of the rule amendment is to clearly outline what the applicant must provide to be eligible for a temporary license to practice in government or nonprofit shelter medicine, nonprofit sterilization clinics, and nonprofit mobile sterilization programs registered with this state, and to differentiate this temporary license from the military temporary license on the website and within the Georgia Online Applications and Licensing system (GOALS). The requirement that the organization be registered as a 501(c)(3) with the Georgia Office of Secretary of State's Securities and Charities Division as well as the requirement that the applicants pass the law exam were included in the amendment. Because this temporary license is only for six (6) months, there are no renewal or CE requirements for this license type. The Committee agreed that proof of employment must be provided at the registered non-profit should be required in the application process.

The Committee determined that the purpose for the rule amendment is to better clarify who specifically is eligible for the temporary license, as well as how the Board determines if an organization where the applicant is employed meets the statutory requirements. Requiring a passing score on the law exam was added for public protection to ensure that the applicant understands the laws and rules under which they may practice if the temporary license is issued. The policy purpose of the rule amendment is to prohibit/prevent unsafe practices and/or fraud by ensuring the Board is licensing practitioners who satisfy the statutory requirements. The rule amendment ensures competent practitioners by verifying applicants have passed the law exam and graduated from an accredited school. The amendment expands access to care/services by allowing for more shelter medicine practitioners to practice in Georgia on a temporary basis if they do not choose to become licensed. By providing this pathway to licensure, there can be enough qualified practitioners lawfully helping to control the pet population. Therefore, the rule amendment creates increased care for shelter animals. The rule amendment carries out policy objectives that are expressed in a statute by ensuring eligible and qualified persons have a pathway to licensure on a temporary basis to work for nonprofit organizations in Georgia.

The Committee considered multiple variations of the rule amendment and determined this is the most clear and concise way to establish their objectives and is the least restrictive way to accomplish the State’s policy. Independent support for the rule amendment derives from stakeholder comments to include Georgia Veterinary Medical Association (GVMA), practitioners, and from the State Veterinarian with the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA). Substantiated examples of harm in the absence of a rule amendment came from shelter groups’ reporting a back log in spay and neuters and the over-population of companion animals, particularly in rural areas. American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) national standards were taken into consideration.

The rule amendment will affect the shelter medicine practitioner and allow ease of access from out of state practitioners to come practice in Georgia if they are working for a Georgia non-profit organization. The rule amendment will also benefit the public by increasing access to care at low-cost clinics. The Committee entered into a discussion regarding the economic impact of the amendment and determined that the impact will be neutral as it applies to animals not being treated in a private practice clinic. The Committee referred Rule 700-2-.04. Registered Temporary Veterinary License for Shelters and Sterilization Clinics, and Rule 700-6-.02. Registered Temporary Veterinary Technician License for Shelters and Sterilization Clinics to the full Board for review.

**Adjournment** No further business was discussed, and the Committee meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

**Minutes recorded by:** Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist  
**Minutes reviewed by:** Meagan Doss, Licensing Analyst & Adrienne Price, Executive Director  
**Minutes approved on:** June 3, 2026

WILLIAM WRIGHT, DVM  
**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON**

ADRIENNE PRICE  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

JESSICA SEWELL, LVT  
**BOARD CHAIRPERSON**