NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE BOARD RULE CHAPTER 700-13 VETERINARY SPECIALIST, PROPOSED RULES 700-13-.02 VETERINARY SPECIALIST LICENSE FOR FOREIGN EDUCATED GRADUATES, 700-13-.03 VETERINARY SPECIALIST LICENSE RENEWAL, 700-13.04 VETERINARY SPECIALIST CONTINUING VETERINARY EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS, 700-13.05 REINSTATEMENT OF VETERINARY SPECIALIST LICENSE AND 700-13-.06 INACTIVATION OF VETERINARY SPECIALIST LICENSE AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Rule 700-13-.02 Veterinary Specialist License for Foreign Educated Graduates
Rule 700-13-.03 Veterinary Specialist License Renewal
Rule 700-13-.04 Veterinary Specialist Continuing Veterinary Education Requirements
Rule 700-13-.05 Reinstatement of Veterinary Specialist License
Rule 700-13-.06 Inactivation of Veterinary Specialist License

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine (hereinafter "Board") proposes amendments to Board Rule Chapter 700-13 Veterinary Specialist to adopt proposed Rules 700-13-.02 Veterinary Specialist License for Foreign Educated Graduates, 700-13-.03 Veterinary Specialist License Renewal, 700-13-.04 Veterinary Specialist Continuing Veterinary Education Requirements, 700-13-.05 Reinstatement of Veterinary Specialist License and 700-13-.06 Inactivation of Veterinary Specialist License (hereinafter "proposed rule(s)").

This notice, an exact copy of the proposed rule(s), and a synopsis of the proposed rule(s) are being sent to all persons who have requested, in writing, to be included on a notification list. This notice, an exact copy of the proposed rule(s), and a synopsis of the proposed rule(s) may also 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, 3920 Arkwright Road, Suite 195, Macon, Georgia 31210. The documents will also be available for review on the Board's website at https://sos.ga.gov/page/georgia-board-veterinary-medicine-rules-and-laws. Copies may also be requested by contacting the Board office at (404) 424-9966.

The public will have an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the proposed rule(s) at a public hearing to be held at **9:30 a.m., on Wednesday, December 16, 2026**, via WebEx. Please see the Board's website for information on how to join the hearing.

Interested parties affected by the proposed rule(s) may submit written comments to the Board no later than close of business on **December 9, 2026**. Written comments must be legible, signed, contain contact information from the maker (address, telephone number, email address), and addressed to Todd Zandrowicz, Division Director, Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine, 3920 Arkwright Road, Suite 195,

Macon, Georgia 31210. The written comments may be emailed to PLB-Healthcare2@sos.ga.gov.

During 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 will be limited to five (5) minutes per person.

The Board voted to post this Notice of Intent at its meetings on June 3, 2026. The Board also voted that the formulation and adoption of these proposed rule(s) does not impose an excessive regulatory cost on any licensee, and any cost to comply with the proposed rule(s) cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-19, 43-50-3 and 43-50-41. Additionally, the Board voted that it was neither legal nor feasible in meeting the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-19, 43-50-3 and 43-50-41 to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed in O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(a)(3)(A), (B), (C) and (D). The formulation and adoption of these proposed rule(s) will impact every licensee in the same manner, and each licensee is independently licensed in the field of veterinary medicine.

According to the Department of Law of the State of Georgia, the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine has the authority to adopt the proposed rule(s) pursuant to authority contained in O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-19, 43-50-3 and 43-50-41.

For further information, contact the Board office at (404) 424-9966.

This notice is given in compliance with O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4.

This the 16th day of November, 2026.

Todd Zandrowicz
Division Director
Professional Licensing Boards Division

Posted: November 16, 2026

SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE BOARD RULE CHAPTER 700-13 VETERINARY SPECIALIST, PROPOSED BOARD RULE 700-13-.02 VETERINARY SPECIALIST LICENSE FOR FOREIGN EDUCATED GRADUATES

Purpose: The purpose of the proposed rule is to address the issue of foreign-educated applicants who otherwise qualify for a veterinary specialist designation and provide for a license for such applicants to practice in a limited capacity, i.e., only within the designated specialty. The rule outlines the requirements for a veterinary specialist license to include requiring foreign-educated applicants who are graduates of foreign schools or colleges of veterinary medicine to prove such graduation via transcripts, and either an AVMA-provided official copy of the applicant's ECFVG certificate or substantial equivalent, or an AAVSB-submitted official copy of the applicant's PAVE certificate or substantial equivalent, as well as a satisfactory residency or similar training program of at least two years, submitted from the appropriate certifying body; and proof of board certification from a specialty organization specified by the Board.

Rule 700-13-.02 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. 2. The AAVSB to submit an official copy of the applicant's PAVE certificate or its substantial equivalent.

(d) 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.

(e) 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.

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

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

(h) 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.

AUTHORITY: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-19 and 43-50-3.

SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE BOARD RULE CHAPTER 700-13 VETERINARY SPECIALIST, PROPOSED BOARD RULE 700-13-.03 VETERINARY SPECIALIST LICENSE RENEWAL

Purpose: The purpose of the proposed rule is to provide requirements for renewal of veterinary specialist licenses, which largely mirror those for licensed veterinarians, including application fees, proof of current certification in the area, and continuing education subject to audit. It codifies that veterinary specialists are subject to disciplinary sanctions as provided in O.C.G.A. § 43-50-41.

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.

(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.

AUTHORITY: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-19, 43-50-3 and 43-50-41.

SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE BOARD RULE CHAPTER 700-13 VETERINARY SPECIALIST, PROPOSED BOARD RULE 700-13-.04 VETERINARY SPECIALIST CONTINUING VETERINARY EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Purpose: The purpose of the proposed rule is to provide specific requirements for continuing education for veterinary specialist, including that five (5) hours must be in Georgia laws, rules, and professionalism. Twenty may be from AVMA-recognized specialty organizations; five (5) may be from organizations including national, state or international veterinary associations or departments of agriculture.

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 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 purpose of renewing or reinstating a license may not be resubmitted to meet continuing veterinary education requirements for renewal.

AUTHORITY: O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19.

SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE BOARD RULE CHAPTER 700-13 VETERINARY SPECIALIST, PROPOSED BOARD RULE 700-13-.05 REINSTATEMENT OF VETERINARY SPECIALIST LICENSE

Purpose: The purpose of proposed rule is to address reinstatement of veterinary specialist licenses, penalties for nonrenewal as provided in O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19(1) and conditions for reinstatement, mirroring those requirements for licensed veterinarians.

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, 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 700-3-.01, providing proof of completion of continuing education within the two years prior to seeking reinstatement as required in Board Rule 700-3-.02, and proof of current certification in the area of veterinary medicine specialty.

AUTHORITY: O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19.

SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE BOARD RULE CHAPTER 700-13 VETERINARY SPECIALIST, PROPOSED BOARD RULE 700-13-.06 INACTIVATION OF VETERINARY SPECIALIST LICENSE

Purpose: The purpose of the proposed rule is to clarify that a veterinary specialist license may be placed in inactive status, mirroring the same option available for licensed veterinarians.

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 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 with an inactive license is unlicensed practice and I would be subject to disciplinary action."

(3) A licensee holding an inactive license may seek active status by submitting a reinstatement application in accordance with Board Rule 700-3-.04.

AUTHORITY: O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19.

RULES

OF

GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

CHAPTER 700-13

VETERINARY SPECIALIST

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Rule 700-13-.02 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. 2. The AAVSB to submit an official copy of the applicant's PAVE certificate or its substantial equivalent.

(d) 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.

(e) 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.

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

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

(h) 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.

AUTHORITY: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-19 and 43-50-3.

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.

(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.

AUTHORITY: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-19, 43-50-3 and 43-50-41.

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 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 purpose of renewing or reinstating a license may not be resubmitted to meet continuing veterinary education requirements for renewal.

AUTHORITY: O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19.

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, 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 700-3-.01, providing proof of completion of continuing education within the two years prior to seeking reinstatement as required in Board Rule 700-3-.02, and proof of current certification in the area of veterinary medicine specialty.

AUTHORITY: O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19.

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 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 with an inactive license is unlicensed practice and I would be subject to disciplinary action."

(3) A licensee holding an inactive license may seek active status by submitting a reinstatement application in accordance with Board Rule 700-3-.04.

AUTHORITY: O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19.