

House Engrossed Senate Bill  
veterinary medicine; electronic means

State of Arizona  
Senate  
Fifty-sixth Legislature  
First Regular Session  
2023

**CHAPTER 124**  
**SENATE BILL 1053**

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 32-2201, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; AMENDING TITLE 32, CHAPTER 21, ARTICLE 3, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTION 32-2240.02; RELATING TO VETERINARIANS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 32-2201, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
3 read:

4 32-2201. Definitions

5 In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

6 1. "Animal" means any animal other than human.

7 2. "Board" means the Arizona state veterinary medical examining  
8 board.

9 3. "Certified veterinary technician" means either:

10 (a) A graduate of a minimum two-year American veterinary medical  
11 association accredited program in veterinary technology who has passed a  
12 national and a state veterinary technician examination.

13 (b) A person who is certified on or before December 31, 2010  
14 pursuant to the rules adopted by the board.

15 4. "Consulting" means providing professional or expert advice that  
16 is requested by a veterinarian licensed in this state and that is rendered  
17 only on a specific case basis.

18 5. "Controlled substance" means any substance that is registered  
19 and controlled under the ~~federal~~ controlled substances act (P.L. 91-513).

20 6. "Cremation" means the heating process that reduces animal  
21 remains to bone fragments by combustion and evaporation.

22 7. "Crematory" means a building or portion of a building that is  
23 licensed pursuant to article 8 of this chapter and that houses a retort in  
24 which only animal remains are cremated.

25 8. "Direct supervision" means that a licensed veterinarian is  
26 physically present at the location where animal health care is being  
27 performed.

28 9. "Gross incompetence" means any professional misconduct or  
29 unreasonable lack of professional skill in the performance of professional  
30 practice.

31 10. "Gross negligence" means treatment of a patient or practice of  
32 veterinary medicine resulting in injury, unnecessary suffering or death  
33 that was caused by carelessness, negligence or the disregard of  
34 established principles or practices.

35 11. "Indirect supervision" means that a licensed veterinarian is  
36 not physically present at the location where animal health care is being  
37 performed but has given either written or oral instructions for treatment  
38 of the animal patient.

39 12. "Letter of concern" means an advisory letter to notify a  
40 veterinarian that, while there is insufficient evidence to support  
41 disciplinary action, the board believes the veterinarian should modify or  
42 eliminate certain practices and that continuation of the activities that  
43 led to the information being submitted to the board may result in action  
44 against the veterinarian's license.

1           13. "Licensed veterinarian" means a person who is currently  
2 licensed to practice veterinary medicine in this state.

3           14. "Licensed veterinary faculty member" means a person who is  
4 currently licensed to practice veterinary medicine as an employee of a  
5 veterinary college in this state.

6           15. "Malpractice" means treatment in a manner contrary to accepted  
7 practices and with injurious results.

8           16. "Medical incompetence" means lacking sufficient medical  
9 knowledge or skills, or both, to a degree likely to endanger the health of  
10 patients or lacking equipment, supplies or medication to properly perform  
11 a procedure.

12           17. "Negligence" means the failure of a licensed veterinarian to  
13 exercise reasonable care in the practice of veterinary medicine.

14           18. "Regularly" means that veterinary services are offered to the  
15 public once a month or more frequently.

16           19. "Responsible veterinarian" means the veterinarian who is  
17 responsible to the board for compliance by licensed veterinary premises  
18 with the laws and rules of this state and of the federal government  
19 pertaining to the practice of veterinary medicine and responsible for ~~the~~  
20 ~~establishment of~~ ESTABLISHING THE policy at such premises.

21           20. "Specialist" means a veterinarian who is certified as a  
22 diplomate in a particular discipline by a national specialty board or  
23 college recognized by the American veterinary medical association after  
24 ~~the completion of~~ COMPLETING additional education and training, an  
25 internship or residency, passing required examinations and meeting any  
26 other criteria required by the various individual national specialty  
27 boards or colleges.

28           21. "Supervising veterinarian" means a licensed veterinarian who is  
29 responsible for the care rendered to an animal by a certified veterinary  
30 technician or a veterinary assistant.

31           22. "Temporary sites" means sites where outpatient veterinary  
32 services are performed.

33           23. "Twenty-four hour services" means veterinary services when a  
34 veterinarian is on the premises twenty-four hours a day.

35           24. "Veterinarian" means a person who has received a doctor's  
36 degree in veterinary medicine from a veterinary college.

37           25. "Veterinarian client patient relationship" means ~~all of the~~  
38 ~~following~~ A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN A VETERINARIAN AND A CLIENT OR THE OWNER  
39 OR CARETAKER OF AN ANIMAL IN WHICH THE VETERINARIAN MEETS ALL OF THE  
40 FOLLOWING:

41           (a) ~~The veterinarian has assumed~~ ASSUMES the responsibility for  
42 making medical judgments regarding the animal's health and need for  
43 medical treatment and the client, owner or caretaker has agreed to follow  
44 the veterinarian's instructions.

1 (b) ~~The veterinarian~~ Has sufficient knowledge of the animal to  
2 initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis of the animal's  
3 medical condition. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBDIVISION, sufficient  
4 knowledge is obtained when ANY OF THE FOLLOWING OCCURS:

5 (i) The veterinarian has recently seen and is personally acquainted  
6 with the keeping and caring of the animal as a result of examining the  
7 animal. ~~, when~~

8 (ii) The veterinarian makes medically appropriate and timely visits  
9 to the premises where the animal is kept. ~~or when~~

10 (iii) A veterinarian affiliated with the practice has reviewed the  
11 medical record of such examinations or visits.

12 (iv) THE VETERINARIAN OBTAINS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE OF THE ANIMAL BY  
13 CONDUCTING A REAL-TIME ELECTRONIC EXAMINATION USING AN AUDIO-VIDEO BASED  
14 COMMUNICATION MEDIUM.

15 (c) ~~The veterinarian~~ Is readily available for a follow-up  
16 evaluation or ~~the veterinarian~~ has arranged for either of the following:

17 (i) Emergency coverage.

18 (ii) Continuing care and treatment by another veterinarian who has  
19 access to the animal's medical records.

20 26. "Veterinary assistant" means an individual who provides care  
21 under the direct SUPERVISION or indirect supervision of a veterinarian or  
22 certified veterinary technician.

23 27. "Veterinary college" means any veterinary college or division  
24 of a university or college that offers the degree of doctor of veterinary  
25 medicine or its equivalent and that conforms to the standards required for  
26 accreditation by the American veterinary medical association.

27 28. "Veterinary faculty member" means a person who has received a  
28 doctor's degree in veterinary medicine from a veterinary college and who  
29 is an employee of a veterinary college in this state.

30 29. "Veterinary medicine" includes veterinary surgery, obstetrics,  
31 dentistry, acupuncture, manipulation and all other branches or specialties  
32 of veterinary medicine and ~~the~~ prescribing, administering or dispensing ~~of~~  
33 drugs and medications for veterinary purposes.

34 30. "Veterinary student" means a student who is regularly enrolled  
35 in a veterinary college.

36 Sec. 2. Title 32, chapter 21, article 3, Arizona Revised Statutes,  
37 is amended by adding section 32-2240.02, to read:

38 32-2240.02. Veterinarian client patient relationship through  
39 electronic means; consent; prescriptions; scope  
40 of practice

41 A. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LAW AND EXCEPT FOR AN ANIMAL THAT IS  
42 USED IN COMMERCIAL FOOD PRODUCTION THAT IS REGULATED UNDER TITLE 3, A  
43 VETERINARIAN MAY ESTABLISH A VETERINARIAN CLIENT PATIENT RELATIONSHIP  
44 THROUGH ELECTRONIC MEANS IF ALL OF THE FOLLOWING APPLY:

1           1. THE VETERINARIAN IS LICENSED PURSUANT TO THIS CHAPTER OR HOLDS A  
2 PERMIT PURSUANT TO SECTION 32-2217.01.

3           2. THE VETERINARIAN OBTAINS INFORMED CONSENT FROM THE CLIENT,  
4 INCLUDING AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT THE STANDARDS OF CARE PRESCRIBED BY THIS  
5 CHAPTER APPLY TO IN-PERSON VISITS AND VISITS THROUGH ELECTRONIC  
6 MEANS. THE VETERINARIAN SHALL MAINTAIN FOR AT LEAST THREE YEARS  
7 DOCUMENTATION OF THE CONSENT DESCRIBED IN THIS PARAGRAPH.

8           3. THE VETERINARIAN PROVIDES THE CLIENT WITH THE VETERINARIAN'S  
9 NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION AND SECURES AN ALTERNATE MEANS OF CONTACTING  
10 THE CLIENT IF THE ELECTRONIC MEANS IS INTERRUPTED. THE ELECTRONIC OR  
11 WRITTEN RECORD PROVIDED TO THE CLIENT AFTER THE TELEMEDICINE VISIT MUST  
12 INCLUDE THE VETERINARIAN'S LICENSE NUMBER.

13           4. BEFORE CONDUCTING AN EVALUATION OF THE PATIENT THROUGH  
14 ELECTRONIC MEANS, THE VETERINARIAN ADVISES THE CLIENT OF ALL OF THE  
15 FOLLOWING:

16           (a) THE VETERINARIAN MAY ULTIMATELY RECOMMEND AN IN-PERSON VISIT.

17           (b) THE VETERINARIAN IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW FROM PRESCRIBING  
18 SOME DRUGS OR MEDICATIONS BASED ONLY ON AN ELECTRONIC EXAMINATION.

19           (c) THE APPOINTMENT THROUGH ELECTRONIC MEANS MAY BE TERMINATED AT  
20 ANY TIME.

21           5. THE VETERINARIAN IS ABLE TO RECOMMEND THE CLIENT TO A LOCAL  
22 VETERINARIAN WHO CAN SEE THE ANIMAL IN PERSON. THE CLIENT HAS THE OPTION  
23 TO CHOOSE AN IN-PERSON VISIT.

24           B. A VETERINARIAN MAY PRESCRIBE DRUGS OR MEDICATIONS AFTER  
25 ESTABLISHING A VETERINARY CLIENT PATIENT RELATIONSHIP THROUGH ELECTRONIC  
26 MEANS, EXCEPT THAT:

27           1. PRESCRIPTIONS BASED ONLY ON AN ELECTRONIC EXAMINATION MAY BE  
28 INITIALLY ISSUED FOR UP TO FOURTEEN DAYS AND MAY BE RENEWED ONE TIME FOR  
29 UP TO FOURTEEN DAYS WITH AN ADDITIONAL ELECTRONIC EXAMINATION.

30           2. PRESCRIPTIONS BASED ONLY ON ELECTRONIC EXAMINATIONS AND THAT  
31 HAVE BEEN RENEWED ONCE MAY NOT BE RENEWED AGAIN WITHOUT AN IN-PERSON  
32 EXAMINATION.

33           3. THE VETERINARIAN MUST NOTIFY THE CLIENT THAT SOME PRESCRIPTION  
34 DRUGS OR MEDICATIONS MAY BE AVAILABLE AT A PHARMACY AND, IF REQUESTED, THE  
35 VETERINARIAN WILL SUBMIT A PRESCRIPTION TO A PHARMACY THAT THE CLIENT  
36 CHOOSES.

37           4. THE VETERINARIAN MAY NOT ORDER, PRESCRIBE OR MAKE AVAILABLE A  
38 CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE AS DEFINED IN SECTION 36-2501 UNLESS THE VETERINARIAN  
39 HAS PERFORMED AN IN-PERSON PHYSICAL EXAMINATION OF THE PATIENT OR MADE  
40 MEDICALLY APPROPRIATE AND TIMELY VISITS TO THE PREMISES WHERE THE PATIENT  
41 IS KEPT.

1           5. THE VETERINARIAN SHALL PRESCRIBE ALL DRUGS AND MEDICATIONS IN  
2 ACCORDANCE WITH ALL FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS.  
3           C. VETERINARIAN SERVICES PROVIDED THROUGH ELECTRONIC MEANS ARE  
4 SUBJECT TO THE RULES ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 32-2275 RELATING TO THE  
5 PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE.

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR MAY 8, 2023.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE MAY 9, 2023.