

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

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Legislative Document

No. 604

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S.P. 186

In Senate, January 30, 1997

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### An Act to Amend the Maine Veterinary Practice Act of 1975.

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Reference to the Committee on Business and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator DAGGETT of Kennebec.  
Cosponsored by Representative McKEE of Wayne.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

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Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §4853, sub-§10, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 477, §4, is amended to read:

10. **Veterinary medicine.** "Veterinary medicine" includes veterinary surgery, obstetrics, dentistry and all other branches or specialties of veterinary medicine, including chiropractic procedures, acupuncture, massage therapy, homeopathy and any other alternative medical practices approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §4853, sub-§11, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 404, Pt. A, §5, is amended to read:

11. **Veterinary technician.** "Veterinary technician" means a person who has completed a minimum of 2 years in a college program that is certified according to the standards adopted by the American Veterinary Medical Association's Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities, or an equivalent program,--as determined by the board, and who has passed an examination prescribed by the board. The equivalent program does not necessarily need to include college courses of study.

Sec. 3. 32 MRSA §4866, first ¶, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 404, Pt. A, §13, is amended to read:

An animal health assistant may, under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian or a registered veterinary technician, perform duties of an animal health care nature. The duties do not include diagnosing, making prognoses, performing surgery, ~~reading--or--interpreting--laboratory--tests~~ or prescribing or initiating treatment. Except for certain laboratory tests specifically designated by the board, the animal health assistant may not read or interpret laboratory tests.

SUMMARY

This bill amends current law to include as recognized veterinary medicine specialties those alternative medical practices approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association.

The bill also allows animal health assistants to read or interpret certain laboratory tests designated by the Maine State Board of Veterinary Medicine and allows persons to become veterinary technicians without taking college courses if they have completed an equivalent program approved by the board and passed an examination prescribed by the board.