

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

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Legislative Document

No. 1391

S.P. 431

In Senate, April 5, 2011

### **An Act To Improve Access to Veterinary Medicine and Improve Veterinary Care**

(EMERGENCY)

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Reference to the Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.

*Joseph G. Carleton Jr.*

JOSEPH G. CARLETON, JR.  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by President RAYE of Washington.  
Cosponsored by Representative PRESCOTT of Topsham and  
Senators: MARTIN of Kennebec, RECTOR of Knox, Representatives: BURNS of Whiting,  
MAKER of Calais, TUTTLE of Sanford.

1           **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not  
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3           **Whereas,** Maine has regulated the licensure of veterinarians for the practice of  
4 veterinary medicine for decades; and

5           **Whereas,** the health and safety of Maine's agricultural and domestic animals vitally  
6 affects the agricultural and general economy of the State, and the public interest and  
7 public welfare; and

8           **Whereas,** there is a shortage of veterinarians in this State practicing veterinary  
9 medicine on large animals, and as a result Maine's large animal population is currently  
10 underserved; and

11           **Whereas,** encouraging veterinarians currently licensed in another state to practice in  
12 Maine will reduce the shortage of veterinarians; and

13           **Whereas,** Maine's veterinary licensing laws now uphold the highest standards of the  
14 profession and ensure the practice of veterinary medicine by highly qualified individuals;  
15 and

16           **Whereas,** maintaining the integrity of the veterinary licensing process is critical to  
17 protect Maine's animals and the general economy; and

18           **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within  
19 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as  
20 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,  
21 therefore,

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

23           **Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §4861, sub-§5,** as amended by PL 2007, c. 402, Pt. R, §5, is  
24 further amended to read:

25           **5. Licensure by endorsement.** The board shall grant a license by endorsement to a  
26 veterinarian who:

27           A. Has submitted a complete application;

28           B. Has paid the examination and license fee as set under section 4863-A;

29           C. Holds a valid license issued by another state, United States territory, province of  
30 Canada or other jurisdiction;

31           D-1. Has successfully passed an examination pursuant to subsection 1-A pertaining  
32 to the practice of veterinary medicine as determined by board rule. The board may  
33 require the applicant to submit to an examination covering the laws and rules  
34 pertaining to the practice of veterinary medicine in this State; and

35           E. Has actively practiced clinical veterinary medicine for 3,000 hours during the 3  
36 years preceding application.

1 Notwithstanding this subsection, the board shall waive the requirement that a veterinarian  
2 pass an examination for veterinarians who have, during the 6 years preceding the  
3 application, actively practiced clinical veterinary medicine for at least 6,000 hours  
4 without disciplinary action relating to the practice of veterinary medicine by another  
5 state, United States territory, province of Canada or other jurisdiction.

6 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this  
7 legislation takes effect when approved.

8 **SUMMARY**

9 This bill requires the State Board of Veterinary Medicine to waive the requirement  
10 that a person successfully pass an examination pertaining to the practice of veterinary  
11 medicine if the person, during the 6 years preceding the application, actively practiced  
12 clinical veterinary medicine for at least 6,000 hours without disciplinary action relating to  
13 the practice of veterinary medicine by another state, United States territory, province of  
14 Canada or other jurisdiction.