

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2012

Legislative Document

No. 1877

S.P. 656

In Senate, March 14, 2012

An Act To Clarify Authorized Associations of Veterinary Practice

(AFTER DEADLINE)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

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 Senator GOODALL of Sagadahoc.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §4864, sub-§12**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 402, Pt. R, §8, is
3 further amended to read:

4 **12. Unauthorized associations.** A veterinarian may practice only in an individual
5 capacity under that veterinarian's own name or in association with a licensed practitioner
6 of veterinary medicine or professional association. Notwithstanding paragraph A, for
7 purposes of this subsection, a veterinarian who has an employment relationship with a
8 corporation or other legal entity that provides a continuum of veterinary services and
9 treatment, including, but not limited to, diagnostic laboratory, research and development
10 services and health and import and export certification, is considered to be lawfully
11 practicing under that veterinarian's own name as long as that veterinarian is individually
12 accountable for conduct under that veterinarian's license. The following are deemed
13 unauthorized associations:

14 A. ~~Association~~ Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, association for the
15 joint practice of veterinary medicine with any person, corporation or partnership not
16 licensed to practice veterinary medicine;

17 B. Knowingly aiding and abetting in the practice of veterinary medicine any person
18 not licensed to practice in this State;

19 C. The lending, leasing or in any other manner placing of one's license at the
20 disposal of or in the service of any other person not licensed to practice veterinary
21 medicine in this State; and

22 D. The continuance of a veterinarian directly or indirectly in the employ of or in
23 association with any veterinarian after knowledge that such veterinarian is engaged in
24 the violation of the provisions of this chapter; or

25 **SUMMARY**

26 Current law requires a veterinarian to practice veterinary medicine under the
27 veterinarian's own name or as part of a professional association. The joint practice with
28 another person or corporation that is not licensed to practice veterinary medicine is
29 prohibited.

30 This bill allows a licensed veterinarian to practice veterinary medicine as a salaried
31 employee of a corporation or other legal entity that provides veterinarian-related services,
32 such as diagnostic laboratory services, research and development and certification for
33 import or export, as long as that veterinarian remains individually accountable for
34 conduct under that veterinarian's license.