

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 106

S.P. 34

In Senate, January 17, 2019

**An Act To Amend the Maine Veterinary Practice Act Relating to
Alternative Therapy or Collaborative Treatment**

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator GUERIN of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Senators: BLACK of Franklin, DILL of Penobscot, Representatives:
DRINKWATER of Milford, HICKMAN of Winthrop, KINNEY of Knox, O'NEIL of Saco,
SKOLFIELD of Weld.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §4853, sub-§1-B** is enacted to read:

3 **1-B. Alternative therapy or collaborative treatment.** "Alternative therapy or
4 collaborative treatment" means any therapy or treatment that is an alternative to or
5 complementary to conventional medicine, including, but not limited to, acupuncture,
6 dentistry, homeopathic or chiropractic procedures and physical or massage therapy.

7 **Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §4853, sub-§4-B,** as amended by PL 2015, c. 209, §5, is
8 further amended to read:

9 **4-B. Indirect supervision.** "Indirect supervision" means any time when a supervisor
10 is not on the premises but is quickly and easily available for consultation on patient care.

11 **Sec. 3. 32 MRSA §4853, sub-§7, ¶A,** as amended by PL 2015, c. 209, §7, is
12 repealed and the following enacted in its place:

13 A. The diagnosis, treatment, correction, change, relief or prevention of animal
14 disease, deformity, defect, injury or other physical or mental condition, including:

15 (1) The prescription or administration of a drug, medicine, biologic, apparatus,
16 application, anesthetic or other imaging, therapeutic or diagnostic technique or
17 nutritional substance or technique on, for or to any animal;

18 (2) Surgery, including elective surgery; and

19 (3) Any manual, mechanical, biological or chemical procedure used for
20 pregnancy testing or correcting sterility or infertility;

21 **Sec. 4. 32 MRSA §4879** is enacted to read:

22 **§4879. Alternative therapy or collaborative treatment**

23 A person may not provide alternative therapy or collaborative treatment to an animal
24 unless the person:

25 **1. License, registration or certification; education.** Holds a license, registration or
26 certification issued by the entity in the State responsible for licensing, registration or
27 certification for the alternative therapy or collaborative treatment or meets the educational
28 requirements determined by the board through rulemaking;

29 **2. Referral.** Possesses a referral from a licensed veterinarian; and

30 **3. Supervision.** Is under the direct supervision or indirect supervision of a licensed
31 veterinarian.

32 For the purposes of this section, "referral" means a prescription from a licensed
33 veterinarian prescribing alternative therapy or collaborative treatment for an animal
34 identified in the prescription. The board shall adopt rules implementing this section.

1 Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5,
2 chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

3

SUMMARY

4 This bill authorizes a person to provide alternative therapy or collaborative treatment
5 to an animal only if the person holds a license, registration or certification from the entity
6 in the State responsible for issuing licenses, certifications or registrations for the
7 alternative therapy or collaborative treatment or meets certain educational requirements,
8 has a referral to provide the alternative therapy or collaborative treatment from a licensed
9 veterinarian and is under the direct or indirect supervision of a licensed veterinarian. The
10 bill also defines "alternative therapy or collaborative treatment" to include acupuncture,
11 dentistry, homeopathic or chiropractic procedures and physical or massage therapy.