

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT.

Sixty-Ninth Legislature.

HOUSE.

No. 318

STATE OF MAINE.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT
HUNDRED AND NINETY-NINE.

AN ACT to regulate the Practice of Veterinary Surgery, Medi-
cine and Dentistry.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in
Legislature assembled, as follows:*

Section 1. The governor, with the advice and consent of
2 the council, shall appoint three practicing veterinary surgeons
3 who are graduates from some recognized but different veter-
4 inary colleges, and residents of this State, who shall consti-
5 tute a State board of veterinary examiners. Such persons
6 shall be appointed and hold office for the terms of two, four
7 and six years respectively, beginning with the first day of
8 May in the present year and until their successors are
9 appointed, and thereafter the governor, with the advice and
10 consent of the council, shall appoint on or before the first day

11 of May in every other year, one person, qualified as afore-
12 said, to hold office on said board for six years from the first
13 day of May in the year of appointment. Vacancies in said
14 cants for examination, and at such other times as they may
15 act for the establishment of the original board and the per-
16 son appointed to fill the vacancy shall hold office during the
17 unexpired term of the member whose place he fills. Any
18 member of said board may be removed from office for cause
19 by the governor, with the advice and consent of the council.

Sect. 2. The members of said board shall meet on the
2 second Tuesday of May next, at such time and place as they
3 may determine, and shall immediately proceed to organize
4 by electing a chairman and secretary who shall hold their
5 respective offices for the term of two years, and thereafter
6 every two years shall elect said officers. The secretary shall
7 give to the State treasurer a bond in the penal sum of five
8 hundred dollars, with sufficient sureties to be approved by
9 the governor and council, for the faithful discharge of the
10 duties of his office. Said board shall meet as a board of
11 examiners at a place within the State, designated by them,
12 of which notice shall be given, on the second Monday in
13 January and July of each and every year when there are appli-
14 cants for examination, and at such other times as they may
15 find necessary for the performance of their duties. Said
16 board shall adopt a seal which shall be affixed to all certifi-
17 cates issued by them, and all such certificates shall be signed
18 by the president and secretary, and shall keep correct records
19 of all its proceedings, and is hereby authorized to make
20 such rules and regulations not inconsistent herewith, nor
21 conflicting with the laws of the State, as shall be deemed
22 necessary for the successful enforcement of this act.

Sect. 3. It shall be the duty of said board immediately
2 after its organization, to notify, by publication, all persons

3 practicing veterinary surgery, medicine and dentistry for gain
4 or hire in this State, of the provisions of this act. Any per-
5 son who shall have practiced veterinary surgery, medicine
6 and dentistry, or any branch thereof, as a profession, in this
7 State for three years, immediately preceding the approval of
8 this act shall, upon the payment of a fee of three dollars, be
9 admitted to registration and said board shall issue to him a
10 certificate signed by the chairman and secretary, and sealed,
11 and said certificate shall state the facts and the cause of said
12 registration and shall be by him recorded in the office of the
13 clerk of the town wherein he resides, and the fee of the clerk
14 for recording said certificate shall be twenty-five cents.

Any person shall be regarded as practicing veterinary sur-
16 gery, medicine or dentistry, or any branch thereof within the
17 meaning of this act, who has been publicly engaged in and
18 professes to be a veterinary surgeon or has prescribed for sick
19 and injured animals and has accepted fees for such services,
20 or has attached to his name the title "V. S." or "Veterinary
21 Surgeon," or any veterinary title in a medical sense.

Sect. 4. Any person not entitled to registration as afore-
2 said shall, on the payment of a fee of ten dollars, be entitled
3 to examination and if found qualified by a majority of the
4 members of the board shall be registered as a veterinary sur-
5 geon and shall receive a certificate therefor as provided in
6 section three. If the applicant is a graduate of a recognized
7 college of veterinary surgery or medicine he shall present his
8 diploma to the board or give satisfactory evidence of his being
9 such graduate and the board shall have power to examine
10 all such diplomas or evidence of such and determine their
11 genuineness.

Any person refused registration may be re-examined at any
13 regular meeting of said board within two years after the time
14 of such refusal, without additional fee, and thereafter may

15 be examined as often as he may desire upon the payment of a
16 fee of ten dollars for such examination.

Said board has also power to suspend or revoke any certifi-
18 cate of registration by a unanimous vote in any case, where
19 such certificate has been wrongfully or fraudulently obtained.

All fees received by the board under this act shall be paid
21 by the secretary thereof into the treasury of the State semi-
22 annually, on or before the first day of July and January,
23 respectively. The actual travelling and incidental expenses of
24 the board, and no others, shall be paid from the treasury of
25 the State, and such travelling and incidental expenses shall
26 be approved by the board and submitted to the governor and
27 council to be audited and paid as in the case of other bills and
28 accounts approved under the provisions of law; provided
29 that the amount so paid shall not exceed the balance in the
30 hands of the State treasurer received from the board for fees
31 and fines as herein specified, and so much of said balance as
32 be necessary is hereby appropriated for the purposes and
33 expenses of the board as aforesaid.

Sect. 5. It shall be the duty of said board of examiners
2 to keep a record of all practitioners qualified under the pro-
3 visions of this act, and to register the name, age, and time
4 spent in the study and practice of veterinary surgery, medi-
5 cine, and dentistry, and if a graduate, the name and location
6 of the school or college granting his diploma. Such record
7 shall be prima facie evidence of all matters therein recorded,
8 and shall be open to public inspection at all times within rea-
9 sonable hours, at the office of the secretary of said board, and
10 such records shall be turned over to each succeeding board of
11 examiners by the secretary.

Said board shall annually render to the governor and coun-
13 cil on or before the first day of January in each year, a full
14 and complete account of all of its official acts during the year,

15 also a statement of receipts and disbursements of the board,
16 and shall make such comments or suggestions as may be
17 deemed essential, for the enforcement of this act.

Sect. 6. It shall be the duty of the board, its members or
2 agents, to investigate all complaints relating to non-compli-
3 ance with or violation of the provisions of this act.

The board shall examine such persons for registration as
5 may make application for such examination as provided under
6 section four of this act, which applicant shall give satisfac-
7 tory proof that he possesses a reasonable amount of average
8 knowledge in the branch of veterinary practice which he
9 desires to follow, and shall pay the fees herein provided on
10 application for examination.

It shall hereafter be unlawful for any person to practice
12 veterinary surgery, medicine or dentistry, or any branch
13 thereof, in the State of Maine, without having previously
14 obtained a certificate from said board of veterinary examin-
15 ers, and being registered as hereinbefore provided, and any
16 person practicing veterinary surgery, medicine or dentistry,
17 or any branch thereof, within this State, as a profession or
18 calling, without complying with the provisions of this act,
19 shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon convic-
20 tion thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not less than ten
21 dollars nor more than fifty dollars, or by imprisonment in the
22 county jail for not less than ten nor more than thirty days,
23 or by both fine and imprisonment, for each and every offense,
24 and all fines collected in accordance herewith shall be paid to
25 the State treasurer to be applied to the expenses of the board,
26 as hereinbefore specified; but nothing in this act shall be
27 construed to prohibit veterinary services, gratuitous or other-
28 wise rendered by any one in case of emergency, or in cases
29 where no registered veterinary surgeon resides within a
30 reasonable distance of the person desiring service.

Sect. 7. The president of said board shall have the power
2 to administer oaths and take testimony before the board for
3 the proper enforcement of this act and of the rules established
4 by the board.

Sect. 8. For the purposes of the appointment of said board
2 and registration of persons by it hereunder, this act shall take
3 effect on approval, and shall take full effect on the first day
4 of July in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and ninety-
5 nine.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Augusta, March 10, 1899.

Reported by Mr. VIRGIN of Portland, from Committee on Judiciary
and ordered printed under joint rules.

W. S. COTTON, *Clerk.*