

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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N I N E T I E T H L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 147

S. P. 106

In Senate, January 22, 1941.

Referred to Committee on Public Health and sent down for concurrence.
500 copies ordered printed.

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Farris of Kennebec.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-ONE

AN ACT Relating to Veterinary Surgeons.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 21, § 83, amended. Section 83 of chapter 21 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

‘Sec. 83. Board of veterinary examiners; appointment; vacancies, removals. The governor with the advice and consent of the council, shall appoint a board of veterinary examiners, consisting of 3 **members who shall be** veterinary surgeons, **and** residents in the state, **and** who shall be graduates of a legally chartered veterinary college or university having authority to confer degrees in veterinary surgery, and who shall have been actively engaged in the practice of their profession for a period of at least 5 years. One member shall be appointed annually, as the terms of the present members expire, and hold office for 3 years. Any vacancy in said board shall be filled by the appointment within 30 days after such vacancy occurs, of a person qualified as aforesaid, to hold office during the unexpired term of the member whose place he fills. Any member of said board may be removed from office for cause, by the governor, with the advice and consent of the council.’

Sec. 2. R. S., c. 21, § 86, amended. Section 86 of chapter 21 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 86. Meetings of board; examination of applicants. The board shall meet as a board of examiners in the city of Augusta, on the 2nd Monday of January and July of each and every year, when there are applicants for examination, and at such other times and places as they may find necessary for the performance of their duties. All persons not previously registered who commence the practice of veterinary surgery, medicine, or any branch thereof, within the state, shall pass an examination to the satisfaction of the board. Applicants for examination shall file with the secretary of the board their written request for such examination, **and shall be graduates of colleges, approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association, granting degrees in Veterinary Medicine,** and shall pay to the treasurer of said board a fee of ~~five dollars~~ **\$10** before taking such examination.'

Sec. 3. R. S., c. 21, § 89, amended. Section 89 of chapter 21 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 89. Penalty. Any person who shall practice veterinary surgery, medicine, or dentistry, or any branch thereof, in the state without complying with the provisions of the 6 preceding sections shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$100, or by imprisonment for not more than 30 days. **The license of a practitioner of veterinary medicine may be revoked or his registration annulled, or both for any of the following causes, gross ignorance or inefficiency in the connection with the practice of veterinary medicine, fraud or deceit in procuring admission to such practice, fraud or deceit in practice of veterinary medicine, wilful violation of any of the provisions of the Maine Veterinary Practice Act, gross malpractice, and conviction of a felony or any crime or addicted to the excessive use of drugs.**

Proceedings for the revocation of a license or the annulment of registration, by filing written verified charges against the accused, such charges may be preferred by any person or corporation or the board of examiners may direct one of its members to prefer such charges. Original charges shall be filed with the clerk of the superior court of the county in which the accused last resided.

The time and place for the hearings of said charges shall be fixed by the judge of the superior court before whom said hearings will be held. It shall be the duty of the prosecuting attorney, of the said county to present the evidence before the court on said case.

A copy of the charges together with a notice of the time and place when they will be heard shall be served upon the accused or his counsel at least 10 days before the date actually set for the said hearing.

If the judge shall find that the charges or any of them are sustained, he shall cause the license of the accused to be revoked.

Any person who shall practice veterinary medicine after his registration has been marked annulled or his license revoked shall be deemed to have practiced veterinary medicine without registration.

After the expiration of one year from the date of revocation of license or annulment of registration, the board may entertain a new application for a new license and may exempt the applicant from the necessity of taking any examination.'