



MEMORANDUM

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| DATE | April 2, 2021 |
| TO | Veterinary Medical Board (Board) |
| FROM | Kristi Pawlowski, RVT, Chair, Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee (MDC) |
| SUBJECT | Agenda Item 5.A. Recommendation to Amend Business and Professions Code (BPC) Section 4841.5 Regarding RVT Foreign Graduate Review Program |

Background

To be eligible to become a registered veterinary technician (RVT) in California, the applicant has to successfully complete a national licensing examination. (BPC, § 4841.4, subd. (b)(1).) The Board uses the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE), which is administered by the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB), as the national licensing examination to determine the professional qualifications of an applicant for registration as a veterinary technician. For eligibility to take the VTNE, an applicant must furnish satisfactory evidence of graduation from a two-year curriculum in veterinary technology, in a college or other postsecondary institution approved by the Board, or the equivalent thereof as determined by the Board. (BPC, § 4841.5.)

Although the Board has regulations to determine education eligibility for out-of-state applicants, it does not have a process or criteria for determining education eligibility for applicants educated outside of the United States or Canada.

During the July 2020 MDC meeting, the MDC received a request to look into a pathway for foreign candidates to become California RVTs. This request also was brought up during the July 2020 Board meeting, and the Board agreed to have the MDC look into this issue and provide recommendations to the Board.

As MDC Chair, I created a Subcommittee to research this topic further and lead the discussions during MDC meetings. Leah Shufelt, RVT, and Jamie Peyton, DVM, were appointed to this Subcommittee.

As described in more detail [here](#), during the October MDC meeting, the Subcommittee presented an overview of applicable statutes and regulations and described items to research before creating and recommending a new pathway for foreign RVT graduates.

Foreign Veterinary Graduates Education Evaluation Program

At the October 2020 MDC meeting, Jennifer Loredo, RVT, shared that she serves on the AAVSB, Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE) for Veterinary Technicians Committee. That committee worked to create a PAVE program similar to the existing program for foreign veterinarian graduates. Under the AAVSB PAVE for Veterinary Technicians, AAVSB would issue a PAVE for Veterinary Technicians certificate as a means of documenting the equivalency of a candidate's veterinary technology/nursing education.

The AAVSB PAVE for Veterinary Technicians Committee has finalized the PAVE for Veterinary Technicians pathway and their Standards and Policies for the program.

During the January 2021 MDC meeting, Nancy Gritman, MBA, Senior Director of Program Services, AAVSB, provided an overview of what has been accomplished so far and the next steps in launching the program. The AAVSB PAVE for Veterinary Technicians Committee anticipates launching the applications for veterinary technicians in the Fall of 2021.

The AAVSB PAVE for Veterinary Technicians includes evaluation of the education equivalence of international veterinary technician/nurse graduates to ensure candidates have the qualifications and experience that are equivalent to an AVMA, Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities (CVTEA) and CVMA accredited veterinary technology education.

AAVSB PAVE for Veterinary Technicians applicants will be required to submit documents directly to AAVSB from their primary source institutions, and AAVSB will review official transcripts and content and identify gaps in course curriculum. AAVSB has partnered with Academic Credentials Evaluation Institute, Inc. (ACEI) to allow AAVSB PAVE for Veterinary Technicians candidates to complete and successfully pass course(s) that contain the identified gap content. After all documentation has been received, the PAVE for Veterinary Technicians Committee will complete its review of the candidate's education documents.

If the candidate is approved, AAVSB will send the PAVE for Veterinary Technician certificate to the Board, and VAULT stamped copies will be made. PAVE for Veterinary Technician certificate holders then are eligible to apply to take the VTNE.

Board Education Eligibility Review to Take VTNE

Under current law, RVT applicants are required to apply to the Board for review of their education credits to determine eligibility to take the VTNE. (BPC, § 4841.5, subd. (a).) In addition, AAVSB verifies the applicant's education credits to establish the applicant's eligibility to take the examination. Further, the Board verifies education prior to issuing a registration. The process of multiple education credit reviews appears to be an unnecessary and overly cumbersome requirement in the application process.

Accordingly, the MDC recommends removing the requirement for the RVT applicant to submit to the Board an initial education review application to take the VTNE. Since the examination is administered by the AAVSB, not the Board, eligibility to take the exam should be up to the examination administrator. The Board would still verify education as part of the review for registration, and no applicant would be registered without obtaining the

required education. Removing the education eligibility review at this stage streamlines the RVT application process and still adequately maintains consumer protection.

MDC Review and Recommendation

The MDC believes the AAVSB PAVE for Veterinary Technician review and certification process is an appropriate pathway for foreign RVTs to validate foreign education for registration in California, as it mirrors the process currently in place for foreign veterinarians to validate their education. The MDC reviewed and modified a legislative proposal, attached, to amend BPC section 4841.5 to allow for submission of education equivalency certified by the AAVSB to become eligible for RVT registration in California. The proposal also would remove the initial education review application to streamline the application process. Additional technical amendments have been made to the proposal to conform the language to the MDC's amendments. The MDC recommends including the proposal in the Board's Sunset bill.

Action Requested

The MDC requests that the Board recommend to the California State Legislature for inclusion in the Board's Sunset bill the legislative proposal to amend BPC section 4841.5 to remove the initial education credits review application requirement and authorize foreign RVT graduate applicants to submit education equivalency certified by the AAVSB to take the VTNE and obtain California RVT registration.

Attachments

1. Legislative Proposal to Amend BPC Section 4841.5

VETERINARY MEDICAL BOARD
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL
REGISTERED VETERINARY TECHNICIANS

Amend Section 4841.5 of Article 2.5 of Chapter 11 of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code as follows:

4841.5. To ~~be eligible to take the written and practical examination for~~ obtain registration as a registered veterinary technician, the applicant shall furnish satisfactory evidence of one of the following:

(a) ~~Be at least 18 years of age.~~

~~(b) (1) Furnish satisfactory evidence of g~~Graduation from, at minimum, a two-year curriculum in veterinary technology, in a college or other postsecondary institution approved by the board, or the equivalent thereof as determined by the board. In the case of a private postsecondary institution, the institution shall also be approved by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education. Proof of graduation must be submitted directly to the board by the college, other postsecondary institution, or American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB).

~~(2)(b) For purposes of this subdivision, e~~Education or a combination of education and clinical practice experience ~~may constitute the equivalent of the graduation requirement imposed under this subdivision~~, as determined by the board.

(c) Education equivalency certified by the AAVSB Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE) for Veterinary Technicians. The certificate of education equivalency must be submitted directly to the board by AAVSB.