

HOUSE BILL 325

M4, J1

3lr1524
CF 3lr2354

By: **Delegates Terrasa, Lehman, Allen, Attar, Chang, Forbes, Grossman, Guyton, Kaiser, R. Lewis, McCaskill, McComas, Palakovich Carr, Pasteur, Ruth, Stewart, Taveras, and Wu**

Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2023

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Provision of Veterinary Services – Routine Medical Care and Rabies Vaccines**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners to
4 authorize a certain veterinary practitioner licensed to practice veterinary medicine
5 in another state or jurisdiction to provide routine medical care in the State under
6 certain circumstances; requiring the Secretary of Health to allow individuals who
7 work in or for a certain veterinary hospital or a certain animal control facility to
8 administer rabies vaccines under certain circumstances; and generally relating to
9 the provision of veterinary services in the State.

10 BY repealing

11 Article – Agriculture

12 Section 2–304(e)

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

16 Article – Agriculture

17 Section 2–304(f)

18 Annotated Code of Maryland

19 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

20 BY adding to

21 Article – Agriculture

22 Section 2–305.1

23 Annotated Code of Maryland

24 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

25 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



Article – Health – General
Section 18–313
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Agriculture

2–304.

[(e) (1)] The Board may authorize the practice of a health occupation on an animal by a health care practitioner licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized under the Health Occupations Article.

(2) If the Board authorizes the practice of a health occupation on an animal under paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Board may:

(i) Impose requirements for education, training, and supervision by a veterinary practitioner; and

(ii) Require the registration of each health care practitioner authorized to practice a health occupation on an animal in accordance with this subsection.]

[(f) (E)] On or before December 31 each year, the Board shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on the Board’s disciplinary activities for the previous fiscal year.

2–305.1.

(A) (1) THE BOARD MAY AUTHORIZE THE PRACTICE OF A HEALTH OCCUPATION ON AN ANIMAL BY A HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER LICENSED, CERTIFIED, OR OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED UNDER THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE.

(2) IF THE BOARD AUTHORIZES THE PRACTICE OF A HEALTH OCCUPATION ON AN ANIMAL UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE BOARD MAY:

(I) IMPOSE REQUIREMENTS FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND SUPERVISION BY A VETERINARY PRACTITIONER; AND

(II) REQUIRE THE REGISTRATION OF EACH HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER AUTHORIZED TO PRACTICE A HEALTH OCCUPATION ON AN ANIMAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBSECTION.

(B) (1) THE BOARD SHALL AUTHORIZE A VETERINARY PRACTITIONER LICENSED, CERTIFIED, OR OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED TO PRACTICE VETERINARY MEDICINE IN ANOTHER STATE OR JURISDICTION TO PROVIDE ROUTINE MEDICAL CARE IN THE STATE IF THE VETERINARY PRACTITIONER:

(I) WILL PROVIDE THE SERVICES TO AN ANIMAL SHELTER, AS DEFINED IN § 2-1701 OF THIS TITLE, LOCATED IN THE STATE; AND

(II) IS NOT OTHERWISE PROHIBITED FROM PRACTICING VETERINARY MEDICINE DUE TO A KNOWN ETHICS OR CRIMINAL VIOLATION.

(2) THE ROUTINE MEDICAL CARE PROVIDED BY A VETERINARY PRACTITIONER AUTHORIZED TO PRACTICE VETERINARY MEDICINE UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION MAY INCLUDE:

(I) SPAYING AND NEUTERING;

(II) VACCINATIONS;

(III) HEALTH EXAMINATIONS; AND

(IV) COMPLETING CERTIFICATIONS OF HEALTH.

Article – Health – General

18-313.

The Secretary of Health shall provide a statewide system:

(1) To control rabies;

(2) To grant authority to the public health veterinarian and the local health officer in matters pertaining to the disposition of animals that bite or otherwise expose rabies to an individual;

(3) To assist local political subdivisions regarding the laboratory testing of rabid animals;

(4) To treat each individual who is exposed or suspected of having been exposed to rabies; [and]

(5) To distribute, in accordance with the conditions set by the Secretary of Agriculture, the biological products that are needed to prevent and treat rabies; AND

(6) TO ALLOW INDIVIDUALS WHO WORK IN OR FOR A VETERINARY HOSPITAL, AS DEFINED IN § 2-304.1 OF THE AGRICULTURE ARTICLE, OR AN ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITY, AS DEFINED IN § 2-305 OF THE AGRICULTURE ARTICLE, TO ADMINISTER RABIES VACCINES IF:

(I) FOR AN INDIVIDUAL WORKING IN OR FOR A VETERINARY HOSPITAL, THE VETERINARY HOSPITAL IS LICENSED UNDER § 2-304.1 OF THE AGRICULTURE ARTICLE;

(II) FOR AN INDIVIDUAL WORKING IN OR FOR AN ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITY, THE ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITY IS LICENSED TO ADMINISTER DRUGS UNDER § 2-305 OF THE AGRICULTURE ARTICLE; AND

(III) THE RABIES VACCINE IS ADMINISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE PROTOCOLS FOR LICENSED VETERINARIANS.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2023.