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HOUSE BILL NO. 2097

Offered January 14, 2009

Prefiled January 13, 2009

A *BILL to amend and reenact §§ 54.1-3423 and 54.1-3801 of the Code of Virginia and to repeal § 54.1-3425 of the Code of Virginia, relating to authority of animal shelters and pounds to purchase, possess, and administer certain drugs.*

Patrons—Orrock and Cosgrove

Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That §§ 54.1-3423 and 54.1-3801 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 54.1-3423. Board to issue registration unless inconsistent with public interest; authorization to conduct research; application and fees.

A. The Board shall register an applicant to manufacture or distribute controlled substances included in Schedules I through V unless it determines that the issuance of that registration would be inconsistent with the public interest. In determining the public interest, the Board shall consider the following factors:

1. Maintenance of effective controls against diversion of controlled substances into other than legitimate medical, scientific, or industrial channels;

2. Compliance with applicable state and local law;

3. Any convictions of the applicant under any federal and state laws relating to any controlled substance;

4. Past experience in the manufacture or distribution of controlled substances, and the existence in the applicant's establishment of effective controls against diversion;

5. Furnishing by the applicant of false or fraudulent material in any application filed under this chapter;

6. Suspension or revocation of the applicant's federal registration to manufacture, distribute, or dispense controlled substances as authorized by federal law; and

7. Any other factors relevant to and consistent with the public health and safety.

B. Registration under subsection A does not entitle a registrant to manufacture and distribute controlled substances in Schedule I or II other than those specified in the registration.

C. Practitioners must be registered to conduct research with controlled substances in Schedules II through VI. Practitioners registered under federal law to conduct research with Schedule I substances may conduct research with Schedule I substances within this Commonwealth upon furnishing the evidence of that federal registration.

D. The Board may register other persons or entities to possess controlled substances listed on Schedules II through VI upon a determination that (i) there is a documented need, (ii) the issuance of the registration is consistent with the public interest, (iii) the possession and subsequent use of the controlled substances complies with applicable state and federal laws and regulations, and (iv) the subsequent storage, use, and recordkeeping of the controlled substances will be under the general supervision of a licensed pharmacist, practitioner of medicine, osteopathy, podiatry, dentistry or veterinary medicine as specified in the Board's regulations. The Board shall consider, at a minimum, the factors listed in subsection A of this section in determining whether the registration shall be issued. Notwithstanding the exceptions listed in § 54.1-3422 A, the Board may mandate a controlled substances registration for sites maintaining certain types and quantities of Schedules II through VI controlled substances as it may specify in its regulations. The Board shall promulgate regulations related to requirements or criteria for the issuance of such controlled substances registration, storage, security, supervision, and recordkeeping. ~~The first such regulations shall be promulgated within 280 days of the enactment of this provision.~~

E. *The Board may register an animal shelter or pound as defined in § 3.2-6500 to purchase, possess, and administer certain Schedule II-VI controlled substances approved by the State Veterinarian for the purpose of euthanizing injured, sick, homeless, and unwanted domestic pets and animals; and to purchase, possess, and administer certain Schedule VI controlled substances for the purpose of preventing, controlling, and treating certain communicable diseases that failure to control would result in transmission to the animal population in the shelter or pound. The drugs used for euthanasia shall be administered only in accordance with protocols established by the State Veterinarian and only by persons trained in accordance with instructions by the State Veterinarian. The list of Schedule VI drugs*

INTRODUCED

HB2097

59 *used for treatment and prevention of communicable diseases within the animal shelter or pound shall be*
60 *determined by the supervising veterinarian of the shelter or pound and the drugs shall be administered*
61 *only pursuant to written protocols established or approved by the supervising veterinarian of the shelter*
62 *or pound and only by persons who have been trained in accordance with instructions established or*
63 *approved by the supervising veterinarian. The shelter or pound shall maintain a copy of the approved*
64 *list of drugs, written protocols for administering, and training records of those persons administering*
65 *drugs on the premises of the shelter or pound.*

66 F. Applications for controlled substances registration certificates and renewals thereof shall be made
67 on a form prescribed by the Board and such applications shall be accompanied by a fee in an amount to
68 be determined by the Board.

69 FG. Upon (i) any change in ownership or control of a business, (ii) any change of location of the
70 controlled substances stock, (iii) the termination of authority by or of the person named as the
71 responsible party on a controlled substances registration, or (iv) a change in the supervising practitioner,
72 if applicable, the registrant or responsible party shall immediately surrender the registration. The
73 registrant shall, within fourteen days following surrender of a registration, file a new application and, if
74 applicable, name the new responsible party or supervising practitioner.

75 § 54.1-3801. Exceptions.

76 This chapter shall not apply to:

77 1. The owner of an animal and the owner's full-time, regular employee caring for and treating the
78 animal belonging to such owner, except where the ownership of the animal was transferred for the
79 purpose of circumventing the requirements of this chapter;

80 2. Veterinarians licensed in other states called in actual consultation or to attend a case in this
81 Commonwealth who do not open an office or appoint a place to practice within this Commonwealth;

82 3. Veterinarians employed by the United States or by this Commonwealth while actually engaged in
83 the performance of their official duties; ~~or~~

84 4. Veterinarians providing free care in underserved areas of Virginia who (i) do not regularly practice
85 veterinary medicine in Virginia, (ii) hold a current valid license or certificate to practice veterinary
86 medicine in another state, territory, district or possession of the United States, (iii) volunteer to provide
87 free care in an underserved area of this Commonwealth under the auspices of a publicly supported all
88 volunteer, nonprofit organization that sponsors the provision of health care to populations of underserved
89 people, (iv) file copies of their licenses or certificates issued in such other jurisdiction with the Board,
90 (v) notify the Board at least five business days prior to the voluntary provision of services of the dates
91 and location of such service, and (vi) acknowledge, in writing, that such licensure exemption shall only
92 be valid, in compliance with the Board's regulations, during the limited period that such free health care
93 is made available through the volunteer, nonprofit organization on the dates and at the location filed
94 with the Board. The Board may deny the right to practice in Virginia to any veterinarian whose license
95 has been previously suspended or revoked, who has been convicted of a felony or who is otherwise
96 found to be in violation of applicable laws or regulations. However, the Board shall allow a veterinarian
97 who meets the above criteria to provide volunteer services without prior notice for a period of up to
98 three days, provided the nonprofit organization verifies that the practitioner has a valid, unrestricted
99 license in another state; *or*

100 5. *Persons purchasing, possessing, and administering drugs in an animal shelter or pound as defined*
101 *in § 3.2-6500, provided that such purchase, possession, and administration is in compliance with*
102 *§ 54.1-3423.*

103 2. That § 54.1-3425 of the Code of Virginia is repealed.