**02-285**

Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation

**BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**

 2025-2026 Regulatory Agenda

AGENCY UMBRELLA-UNIT NUMBER: **02-285**

AGENCY NAME: Department of Professional & Financial Regulation, Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation, **Board of Veterinary Medicine**

CONTACT INFORMATION for thE agency **RULEMAKING LIAISON**: Penny Vaillancourt, Director, OPOR, 35 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333, 207-441-7153, penny.vaillancourt@maine.gov

**EMERGENCY RULES ADOPTED SINCE THE LAST REGULATORY AGENDA**: None.

**EXPECTED 2025-2026 RULE-MAKING ACTIVITY**:

Expected rulemaking will be to implement legislation governing licensure by endorsement and provisional licensure and telehealth services. A review for conformance with statutes and current rules will be conducted and updated as may be necessary, including an update to discontinue the use of the terms “handicap,” “handicapped” and “hearing impaired” pursuant to 36 M.R.S. § 2557, sub-§2.

The Board may review and amend for updates and compliance with current law the licensing requirements for veterinarians, veterinary technicians and veterinary relief service, continuing professional education, rules concerning misconduct and the treatment or care of animals, fraud, advertising, standards of competency, treatment records, recordkeeping, practice standards, sanitation and safety standards for the operation of veterinary hospitals, associations with other veterinarians, and unprofessional conduct. Continuing education may be subject to updates in keeping with practice development and methods of education delivery.

**CHAPTER 1: Definitions and Advisory Rulings**

STATUTORY BASIS: 5 M.R.S. § 9001(4); 32 M.R.S. §§ 4859(1) and (3), 4861, 4871(2)

PURPOSE: This chapter defines terms used throughout the Board's rules and describes the Board’s procedures for issuance of advisory rulings. The Board may review this chapter for conformance with current statutes and make changes as needed.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Licensees

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated.

**CHAPTER 2: Licensure Requirements for Veterinarians and Permit for Performance of Relief Veterinary Service**

STATUTORY BASIS: 32 M.R.S. §§ 4859(1), 4861(4), 4871(2)

PURPOSE: This chapter sets forth requirements for issuance of a license to practice veterinary medicine and permits for the performance of relief veterinary service including: application, education, experience, and references. The Board may review this chapter for conformance with current statutes and make changes as needed. The section on temporary permits will be repealed to conform to newly enacted law.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Licensees

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated.

**CHAPTER 3: Registration Requirements for Veterinary Technicians**

STATUTORY BASIS: 32 M.R.S. § 4859(6)

PURPOSE: This chapter establishes registration requirements and procedures for veterinary technicians. The Board may review this chapter for conformance with current statutes and make changes as needed.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Licensees

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated.

**CHAPTER 4: Continuing Professional Education for Veterinarians**

STATUTORY BASIS: 32 M.R.S. §§ 4871(2), 4878(3)

PURPOSE: This chapter establishes requirements for continuing professional education for license renewal and the manner in which sponsored continuing education courses and programs are considered for approval. The Board may amend this chapter to conform to rules adopted by the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation on substantiation of continuing education by licensed practitioners. Rule amendment to implement legislation requiring a veterinarian to complete one hour of continuing education every two years on the administration, prescription and management of controlled substances, including benzodiazepine and opioid medications.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Licensees

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

**CHAPTER 5: Standards for Veterinary Practice Facilities and Record Keeping**

STATUTORY BASIS: 32 M.R.S. § 4859(3)

PURPOSE: This chapter establishes appropriate safety, sanitation, and procedural guidelines for veterinarians and veterinary clinic operations. The Board may review this chapter for conformance with current statutes and to improve the manner in which veterinary clinics operate within the Board's statutory authority and recordkeeping.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Licensees

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated.

**CHAPTER 6: Enforcement and Disciplinary Procedures**

STATUTORY BASIS: 32 M.R.S. § 4859(3)

PURPOSE: This chapter sets forth enforcement and disciplinary procedures used by the Board. The Board may review this chapter for conformance with current statutes and make changes as needed.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Licensees

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated.

**CHAPTER 7: Code of Ethics**

STATUTORY BASIS: 32 M.R.S. §§ 4859(2) and (3), 4864(11)

PURPOSE: This chapter establishes professional practice standards for the practice of veterinary medicine. The Board may review this chapter and make changes to reflect current practice expectations for the protection of the public being served.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Licensees

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated.

**CHAPTER NUMBER AND TITLE: N/A**

STATUTORY BASIS: 32 M.R.S. § 4879

PURPOSE: To adopt rules to establish standards of practice and appropriate restrictions for the various types and forms of telehealth services.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Licensees and members of the public.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

**CHAPTER NUMBER and Title: N/A**

STATUTORY BASIS: 10 M.R.S. § 8003-H, § 8003-5-A(D)(7)

PURPOSE: The Board may adopt rules to establish a process to issue a license by endorsement or to grant provisional licenses to applicants from other jurisdictions.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within the year.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Licensees and members of the public.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A