

## Senate Bill No. 155

### CHAPTER 621

An act to add Section 4846.5 to the Business and Professions Code, relating to veterinary medicine.

[Approved by Governor September 19, 1998. Filed  
with Secretary of State September 21, 1998.]

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 155, Kelley. Veterinary medicine: license renewal: continuing education.

Existing law requires persons licensed by the Veterinary Medical Board to biennially apply for renewal of their licenses or registrations.

This bill would, commencing January 1, 2002, require the board to issue renewed licenses only to applicants that have completed a minimum of 36 hours of approved continuing education in the preceding 2 years, as specified. The bill would require persons renewing their licenses or applying for relicensure or reinstatement to submit proof of compliance to the board subject to a penalty of perjury provision, and would specifically provide that false statements submitted in that regard would be subject to existing misdemeanor provisions punishable by a fine or imprisonment, or both.

A violation of the penalty provisions of the bill would expand the scope of the existing misdemeanor provision, and would thereby impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 4846.5 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

4846.5. (a) On or after January 1, 2002, except as provided in this section, the board shall issue renewal licenses only to those applicants that have completed a minimum of 36 hours of approved continuing education in the preceding two years.

(b) Every person renewing his or her license issued pursuant to Section 4846.4 or any person applying for relicensure or for



reinstatement of his or her license to active status, shall submit proof of compliance with this section to the board certifying that he or she is in compliance with this section. Any false statement submitted pursuant to this section shall be a violation subject to Section 4831.

(c) This section shall not apply to a veterinarian's first license renewal. This section shall apply only to second and subsequent license renewals granted on or after January 1, 2002.

(d) The board shall have the right to audit the records of any applicant to verify the completion of the continuing education requirement. Applicants shall maintain records of completion of required continuing education coursework for a period as determined by the board, but not to exceed six years and shall make these records available to the board for auditing purposes upon request.

(e) A veterinarian desiring an inactive license or to restore an inactive license under Section 701, shall submit an application on a form provided by the board. In order to restore an inactive license to active status, the veterinarian shall have completed a minimum of 36 hours of approved continuing education within the last two years preceding application. The inactive license status of a veterinarian shall not deprive the board of its authority to institute or continue a disciplinary action against a licensee.

(f) Knowing misrepresentation of compliance with the requirements of this article by a veterinarian constitutes unprofessional conduct and grounds for disciplinary action or for the issuance of a citation and the imposition of a civil penalty pursuant to Section 4883.

(g) The board, in its discretion, may exempt from the continuing education requirement, any veterinarian who for reasons of health, military service, or undue hardship, cannot meet those requirements. Applications for waivers shall be submitted on a form provided by the board.

(h) Continuing education instruction shall be approved by an approval organization or group to be established by the board. Providers of continuing education shall be certified by the group.

(i) The approval group shall establish criteria by which a provider of continuing education shall be approved. The board shall initially review and approve these criteria and may review the criteria as needed. The approval group shall monitor and approve courses and maintain and manage related records and data.

(j) The board shall adopt regulations as necessary for implementation of this section.

(k) The administration of this section may be funded through professional license fees and continuing education provider and course approval fees. The fees related to the administration of this section shall not exceed the costs of administering the corresponding provisions of this section.



SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

Notwithstanding Section 17580 of the Government Code, unless otherwise specified, the provisions of this act shall become operative on the same date that the act takes effect pursuant to the California Constitution.

