

MICROFILM DIVIDER

OMB/RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

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ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

1079

2001 HOUSE AGRICULTURE

HB 1079

2001 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1079

House Agriculture Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date 1-11-2001

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
ONE	A		00 - 2022
Committee Clerk Signature			

Minutes:

A Bill for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 5 of section 43-29-01.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the definition of a certificate required by the board of veterinary medical examiners.

1A:00 CHAIRMAN NICHOLAS: We will open the HB 1079 Board of North Dakota Veterinary Medical Examiners.

1A:78 John R. Boyce: Executive Secretary of North Dakota Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners: Representative Nicholas and members of the House Agriculture Committee. I am the Executive Director of the North Dakota Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners. My pleasure to be here this morning to testify in support of this Bill that our board has introduced. My note book looks awfully thin. I could have come up with more maybe but I suspect by the end of the session (?) this Bill was introduced by our board to amend our practice act to allow the board to use a new certification program for Veterinarians who are graduating from non

accredited Veterinary Colleges. This new program is being developed by the American Association of Veterinary State Boards of the National Association and it's membership includes all of the Veterinary Medical Licensing boards in the United States and fact several in Canada. They are developing this new program to be an improvement on the present program which is the educational commission for foreign Veterinarian Graduates which is operated by the American Veterinarian Medical Association and has been for a number of years. Presently the (ECFVG) is the only program available for certifying graduates from non-accredited school.

Listed in this written testimony the three main objectives is:

.1. The main one is to move the control of this certification program from the National Professional Association which is the American Veterans Association to the association of licensing boards. The licensing boards in the country believe that they should be responsible for determining criteria for licenser's and it of real or perceived conflict of interest for the professional association to be involved in making these decisions who is eligible to be licensed to practice in the United States.

2. The second objective of the new program is to add a new dimension or a new requirement for the candidate's and that is that they pass an examination designed to measure there competence in the basic sciences of pre-clinical areas. The only examination we have now is an examination to examine clinical knowledge and ability. this program will add a new examination and I speak from personal experience here because my main job as Executive Director of the National Board Examination Committee of Veterinary Medicine. Our offices are here in Bismarck and our job is to develop both the national licensing examination that every one has to pass and this new examination that will be used for this new program so I have

a great deal of person interest and knowledge and back ground on those examinations if anyone would care to know more. At any rate this is a new program and has a new step in the evaluation the science of pre-clinical areas. Now we will make it real education equivalent program designed to see whether these people from non-accredited schools have a education that is equivalent to that of graduates of accredited schools.

3. The third objective is the program will address a backlog that existed in the past. Several years ago the backlog was very serious, a year and a half or more, between the time a person applied for the certification examination and were able to take it. That created a lot concern by candidate's. Since then the (AVMA) has taken some steps to reduce the backlog but it is still a year or perhaps a little less depending on how it is figured and this program is designed to greatly reduce if not eliminate the backlog for these candidate's who are seeking licenses in the United States. I noted there at the bottom there going to began with the examination and the start of the program later this year, probably in September and the whole program will be operational probably by September, 2002. So the change that we put in the proposed amendment here to practice act law will allow the board to use either or both programs and that will allow us to continue to use the (ECFVG) program while the new program becomes available and gets up and running and then we will be able to use either one. This is the language that we come up with for our Bill. Rather than talking anymore I will just stop at this point and answer any questions that you might have about this Bill or our board of Veterinary Medicine, whatever.

1A:460: Representative Philip Mueller: Thank you Chairman Nicholas. I guess the question comes to mind in regard to if I'm hearing you correctly we will have what's called a clinical examination as part of the requirements to be a Veterinarian.

1A:479 John R. Boyce: Representative Nicholas and Mueller. Right now there is one examination that everybody has to pass to be licensed. The North American Veterinarians Medical Examination which we have developed out our office downtown. We used a vendor to do it for use but the headquarters of the organization is here. That examination is designed to test what people know at the entry level of private clinical practice. It focuses on clinical knowledge. There is no examination that tests the basic knowledge. That is covered by accreditation program of the (AVMA) when they go around and accredit veterinary schools, they assure that each school has an active curriculum. The non-accredited schools don't have to meet any of those standards. No one looks over their shoulders to say whether their curriculum covers the same thing. So this new examination will be designed to assess that. The clinical these candidates will still have pass the same licensing examination that everybody else passes which focuses entry level private clinical practice.

1A:600: Representative Mueller: I guess my concern might of been about new folks into the field. We are not talking about those that have already been in there through grandfathering so to speak. They don't have to do that.

1A:591: John Boyce: Up until now, the board is using the (ECFVG) program for foreign graduates and to be honest we have few if any Veterinarians in N.D. who came from non-accredited schools. There may be a few but, almost all of our licensee's came from accredited schools. But this program is for people seeking licenses.

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1A:640; Chairman Nicholas: Any other questions committee members. Representative Mueller.

1A:641; Representative Froelich: Mr. Chairman, John, this procedure that you are going to go through for non-accredited Veterinarian Colleges. Are these just examination or is it going to be one examination going to be more stringent than the old way.

1A:670 John Boyce: Representative Nicholas and Representative Froelich. This new program introduces a new step that the present program does not have. And that is the basic science examination. They have to pass that examination. Then they have to take the same licensing examination that everyone else has to. Presently non-accredited colleges graduates do not have to pass this basic examination because it does not exist. They have to just pass the same examination as everyone else. This is really is more stringent than the present (ECFVG) program for these graduates of non-accredited schools. What brought about this change? Are you saying we have Veterinarians in N.D. that are not knowledgeable. No, let me explain a little about how the accreditation system works and why we have non-accredited schools. All the veterinarian schools in the United States and Canada are accredited by the (AVMA). In the past non-accredited schools were in foreign countries. There were relatively few people seeking license's in the United States. Presently there is a situation where there are off-shore veterinarian schools that are not accredited. They do require their students to go to an accredited school there last year. They perform well in an accredited school. They graduate and then seek license's in the United States. This is overwhelming the system to a certain extent. The new examination will allow us to deal with these candidates in a fair way to insure that they meet certain standards, in fact, higher standards than they have had to meet in the past

in the (ECFVG) program. And will assure that the public is protected but at the same time not restricting the entry of qualified people to go into this profession. Which has been the case especially with the backlog is so bad in the past. So, that's probably way much more than what you wanted to know but that's kind of the history of the situation now.

1A:969: Representative Sandvig: Thank you Representative Nicholas. Mr. Boyce, I was wondering, do you anticipate that this could cause a shortage of veterinarians in the future?

1A:969: John Boyce: I think just the opposite is the case, this provides a good method of certifying they the people meet certain standards but it also makes it easier for people to meet those requirements. It will allow people to meet these certification requirements faster and cheaper and therefore would allow qualified people into the profession who might be discouraged from doing so at the present time.

1A:1053: Representative Onstad: Do you feel we have a shortage of veterinarians and is this a way by knowing that they take this extra examination full filling their requirements will make them more capable of doing the job.

1A:1084 John Boyce: Representative Johnson and Representative Onstad. Whether there is a shortage of Veterinarians or not is hotly debated in our profession. I think within our state there is a need for more, it depends on who you talk to. To many in one area and not enough in others. The rural area's are shorter than the city area's. There are lots of opportunities for veterinarians in N.D. We, the board, are trying to make it easier for people to become veterinarians in N.D. and meet these shortages.

1A:1199: Representative Lemieux:

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1A:1270: Representative Pietsch: Are all schools in the U.S. Certified?

1A:1297: John Boyce: There is one school that is forming in Southern California that has not met the requirements of the AMVA and in fact has sued the AMVA over that. They told us that they do not intend to open a non-accredited school. All of the schools in Canada are accredited. Four of them. We here in N.D are one of the first states to introduce legislation. The intent is eventually all of the states will do it. They will adopt this program. There is still a national board examination that everybody has to pass. This new test will be just for graduates of non-accredited school. The test will be given through the U.S. We do have a testing facility in Bismarck. There is also one in Fargo. This test will not apply to anyone presently licensed in N.D.

1A:1933: Representative Nicholas: Thank you sir. Anyone else wishing to offer testimony in support of this bill. Anyone appearing in opposition of this bill? O.K. We will close the hearing on HB 1079.

Date: 1-11-01
 Roll Call Vote #: 1

2001 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO.

House AGRICULTURE HB 1079 ~~1039~~ ~~7095~~ Committee

- Subcommittee on _____
 or
 Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken DO PASS

Motion Made By REP. BERG Seconded By REP. KOPPANG

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Eugene Nicholas, Chairman	✓		Rod Froelich	✓	
Dennis E. Johnson - Vice Chairman	✓		Doug Lemieux	✓	
Rick Berg	✓		Philip Mueller	✓	
Michael Brandenburg			Kenton Onstad	✓	
Joyce Kingsbury	✓		Sally M. Standvig	✓	
Myron Koppang	✓		Dennis J. Renner	✓	
Edward H. Lloyd	✓		Dwight Wrangham	✓	
Bill Pietsch	✓				

Total (Yes) 14 No 0
 Absent 1

Floor Assignment REP. FROELICH

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
January 12, 2001 3:12 p.m.

Module No: HR-03-0956
Carrier: Pietsch
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1079: Agriculture Committee (Rep. Nicholas, Chairman) recommends DO PASS
(12 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1079 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2001 SENATE AGRICULTURE

HB 1079

2001 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

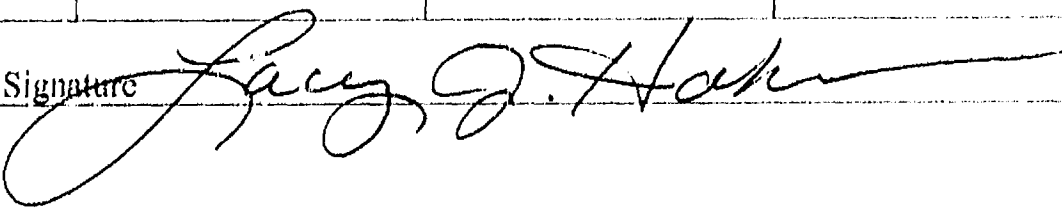
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1079

Senate Agriculture Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date March 2, 2001

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
March 2 1		X	0.0 - 10.3

Committee Clerk Signature 

Minutes:

JOHN BOYCE; North Dakota Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, testified in support of this bill. See attached testimony.

NANCY KOPP; Secretary Of North Dakota Veterinary Assoc., testified in support of this bill.

The hearing was closed.

SENATOR ERBELE moved for a DO PASS.

SENATOR KROEPLIN seconded the motion.

SENATOR KROEPLIN will carry the bill.

