

TITLE 21 – OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

CHAPTER 66 – VETERINARY MEDICAL BOARD

Notice is hereby given in accordance with G.S. 150B-21.2 that the Veterinary Medical Board intends to amend the rule cited as 21 NCAC 66 .0206.

Link to agency website pursuant to G.S. 150B-19.1(c): www.ncvmb.org

Proposed Effective Date: *October 1, 2017*

Instructions on How to Demand a Public Hearing: *(must be requested in writing within 15 days of notice): Written request to the office of the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board mailed to NCVMB, 1611 Jones Franklin Road, Suite 106, Raleigh, NC 27606*

Reason for Proposed Action: *Add the American Association of Veterinary State Boards to the list of continuing education providers. To increase the number of continuing education hours allowed by computer. Allow veterinarians or technicians in the armed forces an extension to comply with continuing education requirements.*

Comments may be submitted to: *Thomas Mickey, North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board, 1611 Jones Franklin Road, Suite 106, Raleigh, NC 27606; phone (919) 854-5601; fax 9919) 854-5606; email tmickey@ncvmb.org*

Comment period ends: *July 31, 2017*

Procedure for Subjecting a Proposed Rule to Legislative Review: If an objection is not resolved prior to the adoption of the rule, a person may also submit written objections to the Rules Review Commission after the adoption of the Rule. If the Rules Review Commission receives written and signed objections after the adoption of the Rule in accordance with G.S. 150B-21.3(b2) from 10 or more persons clearly requesting review by the legislature and the Rules Review Commission approves the rule, the rule will become effective as provided in G.S. 150B-21.3(b1). The Commission will receive written objections until 5:00 p.m. on the day following the day the Commission approves the rule. The Commission will receive those objections by mail, delivery service, hand delivery, or facsimile transmission. If you have any further questions concerning the submission of objections to the Commission, please call a Commission staff attorney at 919-431-3000.

Fiscal impact (check all that apply).

- State funds affected
- Environmental permitting of DOT affected
Analysis submitted to Board of Transportation
- Local funds affected
- Substantial economic impact (\geq \$1,000,000)
- Approved by OSBM
- No fiscal note required by G.S. 150B-21.4

SECTION .0200 - PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

21 NCAC 66 .0206 MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

Each person holding a veterinary license, limited license, a faculty certificate, or a zoo veterinary certificate (collectively referred to herein as "veterinarian") or a veterinary technician registration issued by the Board shall comply with the standards in this ~~Rule, Rule,~~ which The standards shall be a condition precedent to the renewal of a license certificate or registration, respectively. ~~Except as otherwise qualified, the criteria with respect to continuing veterinary medical education of a person holding a certificate of registration as a veterinary technician shall be the same as that for a licensed veterinarian.~~ The standards are as follows:

- (1) Continuing education credit hours shall relate to veterinary medicine.
- ~~(1)(2)~~ A Veterinarians veterinarian shall earn 20 continuing education credit hours each calendar. for the calendar year license renewal period.
- ~~(2)(3)~~ A Veterinary veterinary technicians technician registered with the Board shall earn 12 credit hours every for the two calendar years. year registration renewal period.
- ~~(3)(4)~~ A Veterinarians veterinarian or veterinary technician may request and be granted an extension of time, not to exceed six months, to satisfy the continuing education requirement if the veterinarian or veterinary technician provides evidence of an incapacitating illness or evidence of other circumstance which constituted constitutes a severe and verifiable hardship such that to comply with the continuing education requirement would have been is or was impossible or unreasonably burdensome. If the incapacitating illness or circumstance is likely to result in loss of life of the veterinarian the Board shall exempt the veterinarian from the unearned portion of the continuing education requirement for that renewal period. If the evidence shows that the incapacitating illness or other circumstance is or was so severe that it is or was impractical or impossible, or unreasonably burdensome to comply with the continuing education requirement, the Board shall exempt the veterinarian or veterinary technician from any unearned portion of the continuing education requirement for that renewal period.

- ~~(4)~~ Credit hours may be earned as follows: one hour credit for each hour of attendance at in depth seminars such as seminars sponsored by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA), the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association (NCVMA), and academies and schools of veterinary medicine. Only one hour credit may be acquired for attendance at a local sectional association meeting. The Board shall consider additional course offerings for approval for continuing education credit, provided that the Board is furnished sufficient information to establish that the course content and quality is substantially comparable to the course offerings by those seminars sponsored by the organizations or institutions listed in this Subparagraph. Approval for continuing education credit for courses other than those specified herein shall be obtained prior to attendance at a course; however, the Board may waive the requirement of approval prior to attendance at the course if circumstances beyond the veterinarian's or registrant's control prevented obtaining the prior approval. Only three four hours credit per year may be acquired from review of an audio or video cassette or computer based training.
- ~~(5)~~ Continuing education credits hours may be earned only from courses, programs, or materials presented or approved by the following providers: American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA); the American Animal Hospital Association; (AAHA), the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association (NCVMA); the American Association of Veterinary State Boards' (AAVSB) Registry of Approved Continuing Education (RACE); and academies or schools or colleges of veterinary medicine. These providers are designated herein as "approved continuing education credit providers." The Board shall consider additional courses, presentations or materials eligible for approval for continuing education credit hours provided that the individual seeking the credit furnish the Board sufficient information to establish that the content and quality of the course, presentation or material are substantially comparable to that offered or approved by the approved continuing education credit providers. Board approval for continuing education credits for such additional courses, presentations or materials shall be obtained prior to attendance or participation; however, the Board may waive the requirement of prior approval if circumstances beyond the control of the veterinarian or veterinary technician prevent obtaining the prior approval.
- ~~(6)~~ Subject to the limitations in this Rule, continuing education credit hours may be earned by attendance at in-depth courses or presentations; or by completion of independent self-study courses or non-interactive on-line presentations, courses or materials; or by completion of live interactive on-line presentations or courses.
- ~~(7)~~ One continuing education credit hour may be earned for each hour of attendance at courses presented or approved by approved continuing education credit providers. Up to five credit hours may be obtained from independent self-study courses or materials, approved by approved continuing education credit providers, with content transmitted through videos, DVDs, CDs, prerecorded webinars, audio conferences, and non-interactive on-line presentations. Up to 10 credit hours may be obtained from live interactive on-line presentations or courses approved by approved continuing education credit providers; provided, however, the number of credit hours earned from live interactive on-line presentations or courses shall be reduced by the number of credit hours earned from independent self-study courses or materials and non-interactive on-line presentations or courses. A live interactive on-line presentation or course must:
- ~~(a)~~ include instant or asynchronous two-way communication; and
 - ~~(b)~~ provide timely access to both technical personnel and professional faculty, as well as interactivity among participants for the exchange of questions and answers via instant messaging or a moderated teleconference; and
 - ~~(c)~~ document the level of participation.
- ~~(5)(8)~~ Each veterinarian and veterinary technician shall keep a record of for the three most recent renewal periods of the content of courses submitted to the Board for continuing education credit hours hours earned. Each year he or she shall certify on a form provided by the Board the number of credit hours earned. The Board shall mail the form to each veterinarian at the time of annual renewal.
- ~~(6)(9)~~ During the calendar year in which a veterinarian graduates from veterinary college or during the calendar year in which a veterinary technician graduates from veterinary technician school, a veterinarian or veterinary technician, respectively, shall not be required to earn continuing education credits for that portion of the calendar year remaining from the date when the license or registration was issued to the end of the calendar year.
- ~~(7)(10)~~ A veterinarian licensed in the year of graduation from a veterinary medical college is not required to earn continuing education credit hours to be eligible for license renewal for the next renewal period.
- ~~(8)(11)~~ A veterinary technician registered in the year of graduation from a veterinary medical technology program is not required to earn continuing education credit hours to be eligible for registration renewal for the next renewal period.
- ~~(9)(12)~~ A veterinarian or veterinary technician serving in the armed forces of the United States and to whom an extension of time to file a tax return is granted pursuant to G.S. 105-249.2 is granted the same extension of time to comply with the continuing education requirement of this rule.