

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 26, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 317

Introduced by Assembly Member Maienschein

February 13, 2015

An act to ~~amend Section 921 of~~ *add Section 4853.7 to the Business and Professions Code, relating to ~~healing arts~~ veterinary medicine.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 317, as amended, Maienschein. ~~Health care professionals.~~ *Veterinary medicine: temporary shelter facility.*

Under existing law, the Veterinary Medical Board licenses and regulates veterinarians and the practice of veterinary medicine. It is unlawful for any person to practice veterinary medicine in this state unless he or she holds a valid, unexpired, and unrevoked license issued by the board, except under specified circumstances.

Existing law requires the registration of all premises where veterinary medicine, veterinary dentistry, or veterinary surgery is being practiced. Existing law also requires these premises, and all instruments, apparatus, and apparel used in connection with those practices, to be kept clean and sanitary at all times, and to conform to those minimum standards established by the board. Existing law makes it a misdemeanor to violate these provisions regulating the practice of veterinary medicine.

This bill would exempt from the premises registration requirements an organization that establishes a temporary shelter facility during a state of emergency to provide veterinary medical care by a veterinarian who is regularly licensed in another state or territory of the United States if the temporary shelter facility meets specified requirements.

Existing law, the Health Care Professional Disaster Response Act, states findings of the Legislature regarding the shortage of qualified health care practitioners during times of national or state disasters, and authorizes a physician and surgeon, whose license has been expired for less than 5 years and who meets specified criteria, to obtain a license without paying fees.

This bill would make a nonsubstantive change to those provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~-yes. State-mandated local program: no.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 4853.7 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

2 4853.7. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter,
3 an organization that establishes a temporary shelter facility to
4 provide veterinary medical care, shelter, and food and water
5 during a state of emergency, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section
6 8558, by a veterinarian who is regularly licensed in another state
7 or territory of the United States shall be exempt from the premises
8 registration requirements of this chapter if the following
9 requirements are met:

10 (a) A notice is posted in a conspicuous location that the
11 temporary shelter facility is being used for the diagnosis and
12 treatment of animals affected by the state of emergency and that
13 this diagnosis and treatment is provided by a veterinarian who is
14 licensed in another state or territory of the United States.

15 (b) The temporary shelter facility complies with the standards
16 established pursuant to Section 4854.

17 (c) The temporary shelter ceases operations within 60 days after
18 its establishment unless the board grants an extension of this date
19 to protect the public health and safety of the animals within the
20 temporary shelter.

21 SECTION 1. Section 921 of the Business and Professions Code
22 is amended to read:

23 921. (a) The Legislature finds and declares the following:

24 (1) In times of national or state disasters, a shortage of qualified
25 health care practitioners may exist in areas throughout the state
26 where they are desperately required to respond to public health
27 emergencies.
28

1 ~~(2) Health care practitioners with lapsed or inactive licenses~~
2 ~~could potentially serve in those areas where a shortage of qualified~~
3 ~~health care practitioners exists, if licensing requirements were~~
4 ~~streamlined and fees curtailed.~~

5 ~~(b) Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature to address these~~
6 ~~matters through the provisions of the Health Care Professional~~
7 ~~Disaster Response Act.~~

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