

By: Representative Whittington

To: Agriculture

HOUSE BILL NO. 805

1 AN ACT TO CODIFY NEW CODE SECTION 73-39-43, MISSISSIPPI CODE  
2 OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE  
3 TO CERTIFY ANIMAL CONTROL AGENCIES TO UTILIZE CERTAIN CONTROLLED  
4 SUBSTANCES FOR THE HUMANE DESTRUCTION OF ANIMALS AND TO CERTIFY  
5 AND PRESCRIBE QUALIFICATIONS FOR CERTIFIED ANIMAL EUTHANASIA  
6 TECHNICIANS (CAET) TO PERFORM EUTHANASIA OF ANIMALS; TO AMEND  
7 SECTION 73-39-9, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE  
8 MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE TO ADOPT RULES IN  
9 CONFORMITY THERETO; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

11 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section  
12 73-39-43, Mississippi Code of 1972:

13 73-39-43. (1) For purposes of this section, the following  
14 terms shall have the meanings ascribed herein, unless the context  
15 clearly indicates otherwise:

16 (a) "Certified animal control agency" means a federal,  
17 county or municipal animal shelter, dog pound or animal control  
18 agency, private humane society, state, county or municipal law  
19 enforcement agency, or any combination thereof, which temporarily  
20 houses stray, unwanted or injured animals and which is certified  
21 pursuant to the provisions of this section.

22 (b) "Certified animal euthanasia technician (CAET)"  
23 means a person employed by a certified animal control agency who  
24 is authorized by the Mississippi Board of Veterinary Medicine to  
25 perform euthanasia on animals with approved scheduled substances.

26 (c) "Board" means the Mississippi Board of Veterinary  
27 Medicine.

28 (2) (a) The Mississippi Board of Veterinary Medicine shall  
29 adopt rules providing for the issuance of permits for the  
30 purchase, possession and use of sodium pentobarbital or other



31 board approved drugs for euthanasia by certified animal control  
32 agencies. The rules shall set forth guidelines for the proper  
33 storage and handling of the substances and other provisions as may  
34 be necessary to ensure that these drugs are used solely for the  
35 purpose set forth in this section. The rules shall also provide  
36 for an application or inspection fee and a renewal fee at set  
37 intervals.

38 (b) Upon certification by the board that the applying  
39 agency meets the qualifications set forth in the rules, a permit  
40 shall be issued.

41 (c) The board may revoke or suspend the permit upon the  
42 determination that the permittee fails to follow the rules of the  
43 board regarding proper storage and handling or use of approved  
44 euthanasia substances.

45 (3) (a) Euthanasia of animals in a certified animal control  
46 agency may only be performed by a licensed veterinarian, including  
47 a licensed veterinary technician employed by and functioning under  
48 the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian, or a certified  
49 animal euthanasia technician as provided by law. A certified  
50 animal control agency which employs a certified animal euthanasia  
51 technician may purchase, possess and administer sodium  
52 pentobarbital or such other drug which the board may approve for  
53 the euthanasia of animals. Sodium pentobarbital and such other  
54 drugs approved by the board shall be the only drugs used for the  
55 euthanasia of animals in a certified animal control agency. Upon  
56 submission of a complete application, payment of a fee established  
57 by the board and successful completion of a board-approved animal  
58 euthanasia specialist training course by the applicant, the Board  
59 of Veterinary Examiners shall issue to any person whom it  
60 determines to be qualified a certificate for the person to  
61 function as a certified animal euthanasia specialist.

62 (b) No officer or agent of a certified animal control  
63 agency or veterinarian acting in good faith and with due care



64 pursuant to this act may be held liable either criminally or  
65 civilly for that act, nor shall any civil or criminal liability  
66 attach to the employer of the officer, agent or veterinarian.

67 (c) A court order shall not be necessary to carry out  
68 this section.

69 (4) Any person who violates this act shall be guilty of a  
70 misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine not  
71 exceeding Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) or imprisonment in the  
72 county jail for a term not exceeding six (6) months, or both.

73 (5) Notwithstanding any provision of this section, the  
74 Mississippi Board of Veterinary Medicine shall issue a certified  
75 animal euthanasia technician certificate to any person who (a) has  
76 not less than five (5) years' experience in performing euthanasia  
77 on animals for a federal, municipal or county animal control  
78 shelter, (b) is presently performing euthanasia on animals for a  
79 federal, municipal or county animal control shelter and (c) makes  
80 application to the board for the certificate during the period  
81 from July 1, 2003, through July 31, 2003. The board shall furnish  
82 persons seeking certification under this section an application  
83 form upon request. The applicant's previous experience and  
84 current employment at a federal, municipal or county animal  
85 control shelter must be documented in writing by the owner,  
86 management, licensee or governing authorities in charge of the  
87 animal control shelter and included with the application to the  
88 board.

89 **SECTION 2.** Section 73-39-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
90 amended as follows:

91 73-39-9. The board shall elect from their members a  
92 president, vice president and secretary-treasurer. The board is  
93 authorized:

94 (a) To adopt reasonable rules governing the practice of  
95 veterinary medicine as are necessary to enable it to carry out and  
96 make effective the purpose and intent of this chapter. Such rules



97 shall be adopted and promulgated in accordance with the provisions  
98 of this chapter.

99 (b) To adopt rules of professional conduct appropriate  
100 to establish and maintain a high standard of integrity, skills and  
101 practice in the profession of veterinary medicine. In prescribing  
102 such rules of professional conduct, the board may be guided by the  
103 principles of veterinary medical ethics adopted by the American  
104 Veterinary Medical Association and the Mississippi Veterinary  
105 Medical Association.

106 (c) To have its rules printed which shall be  
107 distributed to all licensed veterinarians.

108 (d) To bring proceedings in courts for the enforcement  
109 of this chapter or any rules made pursuant thereto.

110 (e) To hold at least one (1) regular meeting on the  
111 third Tuesday in June each year in the City of Jackson at such  
112 time and location as fixed by the board, for the purpose of  
113 conducting examinations of applicants for license to practice  
114 veterinary medicine, the election of officers and to consider any  
115 other business that may properly come before the board. Other  
116 meetings may be held upon the call of the president and secretary  
117 of the board.

118 (f) To pass upon the qualifications of applicants for a  
119 license to practice veterinary medicine in this state, or for a  
120 certificate as an animal technician.

121 (g) To prescribe the subjects, character, manner, time  
122 and place of holding examinations and the filing of applications  
123 for examinations and to conduct the examinations.

124 (h) To issue temporary permits to practice to duly  
125 qualified applicants which shall be signed by the secretary.

126 (i) To provide for, regulate and require all persons  
127 licensed in accordance with the provisions of this chapter to  
128 renew their license annually; to require as a condition precedent  
129 to such annual renewal the payment of the annual renewal fee as



130 provided herein; to issue annual renewal licenses to such persons  
131 and to suspend or revoke the license of such persons who fail,  
132 refuse or neglect to renew same or pay such fees.

133 (j) To conduct investigations and hearings upon  
134 complaints calling for discipline of a licensee or applicant for  
135 license.

136 (k) To take testimony on any matter under its  
137 jurisdiction and any member thereof may administer oaths.

138 (l) To issue summons and subpoenas, including subpoenas  
139 duces tecum, for any witness in connection with any matter within  
140 the jurisdiction of the board, which shall be signed by either the  
141 president or the secretary-treasurer of the board.

142 (m) To adopt such forms as it may deem necessary.

143 (n) To adopt rules and regulate the certification of  
144 animal control agencies and animal euthanasia technicians pursuant  
145 to Section 73-39-43.

146 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
147 and after July 1, 2003.

