

By: Senator(s) Gollott, Hewes

To: Agriculture

SENATE BILL NO. 2839

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 73-39-57, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO CLARIFY THE AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE TO
3 CHARGE A FEE FOR INSPECTION OF VETERINARY PREMISES; AND FOR
4 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 73-39-57, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 73-39-57. The board may:

9 (a) Adopt, amend or repeal all rules necessary for its
10 government and all regulations necessary to implement this
11 chapter, including the establishment and publication of standards
12 of practice and professional conduct for the practice of
13 veterinary medicine.

14 (b) Adopt, promulgate and enforce rules and regulations
15 relating to specific duties and responsibilities; certification,
16 registration or licensure; and other matters pertaining to
17 veterinary technicians or nonlicensed persons consistent with this
18 chapter.

19 (c) Initiate disciplinary procedures, hold hearings,
20 reprimand, suspend, revoke or refuse to issue or renew credentials
21 and perform any other acts that may be necessary to regulate
22 veterinary technicians and technologists.

23 (d) Examine by established protocol the qualifications
24 and fitness of applicants for a license to practice veterinary
25 medicine in this state.

26 (e) Issue, renew or deny the licenses and temporary
27 permits to practice veterinary medicine.

28 (f) Limit, suspend or revoke the licenses of
29 disciplined veterinarians or otherwise discipline licensed
30 veterinarians consistent with this chapter and applicable rules
31 and regulations.

32 (g) Establish and publish annually a schedule of fees
33 for licensing and certification.

34 (h) Conduct investigations of suspected violations of
35 this chapter to determine whether there are sufficient grounds to
36 initiate disciplinary proceedings.

37 (i) Inspect veterinary premises and equipment,
38 including practice vehicles, at any time in accordance with
39 protocols established by rule and establish and publish a schedule
40 of fees for such inspections.

41 (j) Hold hearings on all matters properly brought
42 before the board, to administer oaths, receive evidence, make
43 necessary determinations and enter orders consistent with the
44 findings. The board may require by subpoena the attendance and
45 testimony of witnesses and the production of papers, records or
46 other documentary evidence and commission depositions. The board
47 may designate one or more of its members to serve as its hearing
48 officer. The board shall adopt rules and regulations for hearings
49 before the board and the rules shall afford any person appearing
50 before the board the safeguards of procedural due process. Formal
51 rules of evidence shall not apply.

52 (k) Employ full- or part-time personnel necessary to
53 implement this chapter and purchase or rent necessary office
54 space, equipment and supplies.

55 (l) Appoint from its own membership one or more members
56 to act as representatives of the board at any meeting within or
57 outside the state.

58 (m) Bring proceedings in the courts against any person
59 for the enforcement of this chapter or any regulations made
60 pursuant thereto.

61 The powers enumerated herein are granted for the purpose of
62 enabling the board to supervise effectively the practice of
63 veterinary medicine and veterinary technology and are to be
64 construed liberally to accomplish this objective.

65 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
66 and after July 1, 2007.