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## OLR Bill Analysis

### sSB 190

#### ***AN ACT AUTHORIZING CERTAIN FOREIGN-EDUCATED VETERINARIANS TO PRACTICE UNDER A TEMPORARY PERMIT AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP THROUGH THE USE OF TELEHEALTH FOR THE TREATMENT OF URGENT MEDICAL CONDITIONS.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill allows a veterinarian-client-patient relationship to be established through telehealth if (1) a veterinarian determines that the animal urgently needs medical care or treatment that will take up to 14 days and (2) the client schedules an in-person examination of the animal to occur within 14 days of the first telehealth visit. The veterinarian-client-patient relationship ends after the 14 days if the veterinarian does not examine the animal in-person during that time.

Under current law, while veterinarians may practice through telehealth, the initial appointment in all cases must be in person. Generally, after this initial in-person appointment, veterinarians may use telehealth if it is not medically necessary for them to examine the animal in-person. If there is no veterinarian-client-patient relationship, veterinarians may only give general advice electronically.

Separately, under specified conditions, the bill allows the Department of Public Health (DPH) to issue a temporary veterinarian permit to graduates of foreign veterinary schools, allowing them to work under direct supervision of certain state-licensed veterinarians.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

#### **TEMPORARY PERMITS**

The bill allows DPH to issue a temporary veterinary permit to someone who (1) graduated from a veterinary school (see below) located outside of the U.S., its territories, or Canada; (2) is working

toward certification from the Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG) or Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence; and (3) passed the written, oral, and practical exams required for a veterinarian license.

For the person to be eligible, the veterinary school program must be one that the American Veterinary Medical Association finds acceptable for ECFVG certification.

The bill allows a permit holder to practice only under the direct supervision of a veterinarian who has been licensed in the state for at least four years. "Direct supervision" means the licensed veterinarian is in the office where the permit holder is practicing and immediately availability to help and direct the permit holder during that time.

The permit is valid for up to two years, and can be renewed once (for two years) if the applicant fails to get certification from the commission or program specified above during the initial two-year period. There is no permit fee.

### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 31 Nay 0 (03/02/2026)