



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 27

February Session, 2026

Substitute Senate Bill No. 190

Senate, March 16, 2026

The Committee on Public Health reported through SEN. ANWAR of the 3rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

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.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 20-200 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

3 (a) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 20-198, the
4 Department of Public Health may issue a license by endorsement to any
5 veterinarian of good professional character who is currently licensed
6 and practicing in some other state or territory, having requirements for
7 admission determined by the department to be at least equal to the
8 requirements of this state, upon the payment of a fee of five hundred
9 sixty-five dollars to said department. Notwithstanding the provisions of
10 section 20-198, the department may, upon payment of a fee of five
11 hundred sixty-five dollars, issue a license without examination to a
12 currently practicing, competent veterinarian in another state or territory

13 who [(1)] (A) holds a current valid license in good professional standing
14 issued after examination by another state or territory that maintains
15 licensing standards which, except for examination, are commensurate
16 with this state's standards, and [(2)] (B) has worked continuously as a
17 licensed veterinarian in an academic or clinical setting in another state
18 or territory for a period of not less than five years immediately
19 preceding the application for licensure without examination. No license
20 shall be issued under this section to any applicant against whom
21 professional disciplinary action is pending or who is the subject of an
22 unresolved complaint. The department shall inform the board annually
23 of the number of applications it receives for licensure under this section.

24 [(b)] (2) The Department of Public Health may issue a temporary
25 permit under this subsection to an applicant for licensure without
26 examination upon receipt of a completed application form,
27 accompanied by the fee for licensure without examination, a copy of a
28 current license from another state of the United States, the District of
29 Columbia or a commonwealth or territory subject to the laws of the
30 United States, and a notarized affidavit attesting that the license is valid
31 and belongs to the person requesting notarization. Such temporary
32 permit shall be valid for a period not to exceed one hundred twenty
33 calendar days and shall not be renewable. The department shall not
34 issue a temporary permit under this section to any applicant against
35 whom professional disciplinary action is pending, or who is the subject
36 of an unresolved complaint.

37 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 20-198, the Department
38 of Public Health may issue a temporary permit to an applicant who (1)
39 is a graduate from a school located outside of the United States, its
40 territories or Canada with a degree of doctor of veterinary medicine, or
41 its equivalent, from a program acceptable to the American Veterinary
42 Medical Association as required to receive certification by the
43 Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates, (2) is
44 working toward receiving certification from the Educational
45 Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates or Program for the
46 Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence, and (3) has passed the

47 written, oral and practical examinations required under section 20-199.
48 Such temporary permit shall authorize the holder to practice veterinary
49 medicine only under the direct supervision of a veterinarian who has
50 been licensed under chapter 384 for not less than four years. Such
51 temporary permit shall be valid for a period not to exceed two years
52 after the date of issuance, except such temporary permit shall be
53 renewable once for a period of two years if the applicant fails to receive
54 certification from the Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary
55 Graduates or Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education
56 Equivalence within the first two-year period. No fee shall be required
57 for the issuance or renewal of a temporary permit under this section. As
58 used in this subsection, "direct supervision" means the licensed
59 veterinarian is present in the office where the temporary permit holder
60 is performing such holder's duties and immediately available to furnish
61 assistance and direction to such holder throughout the performance of
62 such duties.

63 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 20-197 of the general statutes is
64 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
65 *1, 2026*):

66 (c) [A] (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, a
67 veterinarian-client-patient relationship may not be established solely
68 through veterinary telemedicine. After a veterinarian-client-patient
69 relationship has been established, such relationship may be maintained
70 through veterinary telemedicine in between medically necessary
71 examinations of the animal by the veterinarian or timely medical visits
72 by the veterinarian to the location where the animal is kept. If there is
73 no veterinarian-client-patient relationship, a veterinarian may only
74 provide general advice using electronic means and shall not provide any
75 specific advice regarding the animal, including, but not limited to, any
76 diagnosis or recommended medical care or treatment of the animal. As
77 used in this subsection, "veterinary telemedicine" means the exchange
78 of medical information regarding the status of an animal's health or the
79 delivery of a medical diagnosis, care or treatment of an animal through
80 electronic means, including, but not limited to, telephone, video, mobile

81 applications or an Internet web site-based platform.

82 (2) A veterinarian-client-patient relationship may be established
 83 through veterinary telemedicine only when (A) a veterinarian
 84 determines that the animal is in urgent need of medical care or treatment
 85 that will take a maximum of fourteen days for the veterinarian to
 86 administer to the animal, and (B) the client schedules an in-person
 87 examination of the animal by the veterinarian to occur not later than
 88 fourteen days after the initial veterinary telemedicine visit. The
 89 veterinarian-client-patient relationship established under this
 90 subdivision shall not continue after such fourteen-day period ends
 91 unless the veterinarian examines the animal in person within such
 92 fourteen-day period.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2026	20-200
Sec. 2	October 1, 2026	20-197(c)

PH Joint Favorable Subst.

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill establishes a free temporary permit for certain veterinary school graduates and makes procedural changes regarding veterinary telehealth, resulting in no fiscal impact to the state.

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)