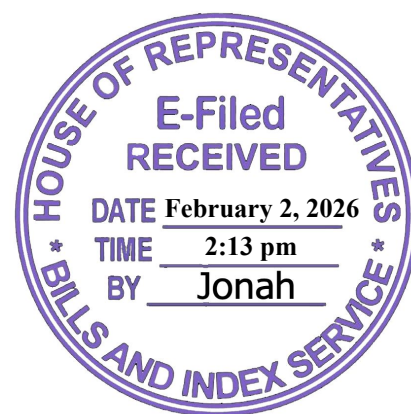


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 7541



Introduced by Honorable Ma. Alana Samanta Taliño Santos

AN ACT REGULATING AND PROFESSIONALIZING THE PRACTICE OF VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY IN THE PHILIPPINES, CREATING THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF VETERINARY TECHNOLOGISTS UNDER THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The professional practice of Veterinary Technology is vital to animal health, food safety, environmental health, and public health in the Philippines. Veterinary Technologists support licensed Doctors of Veterinary Medicine by providing clinical, laboratory, livestock, field, and technical services. Their work helps the country address animal diseases such as African Swine Fever, Avian Influenza, rabies, and other zoonotic diseases that threaten both animals and humans.¹ The absence of a national regulatory framework governing the qualifications, practice standards, and licensure of Veterinary Technologists has resulted in inconsistent professional practice and limited workforce development, weakening the country's overall veterinary infrastructure at a time when strong biosecurity and One Health capacities are most needed.

The lack of a national regulatory framework for Veterinary Technologists has resulted in inconsistent practice and weak workforce development, reducing the effectiveness of the country's veterinary system. At present, only veterinarians are regulated under Republic Act No. 9268,² while Veterinary Technologists remain without a professional law despite their important role in service delivery. This gap also weakens the implementation of animal welfare laws under Republic Act No. 8485, as amended by RA 10631, which rely on trained technical personnel for inspections, diagnostics, and emergency response.³

International standards support the professional regulation of veterinary paraprofessionals. The World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH)⁴ and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)⁵ both issue guidelines that define required skills and encourage national regulation to strengthen animal health systems. Countries such as Canada and South Africa already regulate Veterinary Technologists through licensure,

¹ Department of Agriculture – ASF, AI, and rabies advisories and program reports (Official Gazette; DA publications)

² Republic Act No. 9268, Philippine Veterinary Medicine Act of 2004 — Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines.

³ Republic Act No. 8485, Animal Welfare Act of 1998, as amended by RA 10631 — Official Gazette.

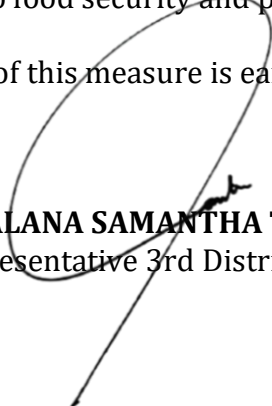
⁴ World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) — Competency Guidelines for Veterinary Paraprofessionals.

⁵ Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) — Veterinary Paraprofessional Competency Framework Toolkit

competency exams, and codes of ethics⁶. Regulating Veterinary Technologists in the Philippines would align the country with global standards and improve cooperation on biosecurity, food safety, and disease control.

This measure establishes a national framework for the profession. It creates a Professional Regulatory Board of Veterinary Technologists under the PRC, requires a licensure examination, defines the scope of practice and ethical duties, and sets supervision standards to protect public safety. It also directs CHED to strengthen the BSVT curriculum to meet global standards. Transitional provisions, similar to those in RA 5527 and RA 10915, allow qualified BSVT graduates to register without examination during the initial implementation period.⁷ Regulating Veterinary Technologists will improve disease surveillance and diagnostics, strengthen animal welfare enforcement, and enhance LGU veterinary services. It will also boost livestock and aquaculture productivity, improve outbreak preparedness, support One Health, and expand access to veterinary services in rural areas, contributing to food security and public health.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



HON. MA. ALANA SAMANTHA TALIÑO SANTOS
Representative 3rd District of Cotabato

⁶ Canadian provincial RVT regulation (Ontario, British Columbia, Manitoba) and South African Veterinary Council para-veterinary rules — international regulatory models

⁷ Transitional professionalization models referenced from RA 5527 (Medical Technology Act) and RA 10915 (Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Act).

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SECTION 1. *Short Title* - This Act shall be known as the “*Philippine Veterinary Technology Act.*”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to strengthen national animal health, public health, environmental health, and food safety systems by recognizing and regulating the profession of Veterinary Technology.

1. The State affirms that Veterinary Technologists play an essential role in supporting licensed Doctors of Veterinary Medicine (DVMs) in clinical care, laboratory diagnostics, livestock and aquaculture health, public health programs, meat inspection, and disease surveillance.
2. The State shall establish a regulatory framework that ensures competent, ethical, accountable, and globally competitive Registered Veterinary Technologists (RVTs).
3. This Act aims to safeguard the public by establishing licensure standards, professional oversight, academic quality assurance, and ethical practice guidelines for Veterinary Technologists.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms* – For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- a. Veterinary Technologist / Registered Veterinary Technologist (RVT) — a natural person who (1) has completed a CHED-recognized Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Technology (BSVT) program or such other program as may be recognized by CHED and the Board pursuant to this Act; (2) has passed the Veterinary Technologist Licensure Examination (VTLE); and (3) is duly registered and issued a Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification Card by the PRC.
- b. Practice of Veterinary Technology — the performance, for compensation or without compensation, of technical, clinical support, laboratory, animal nursing, and public health support functions that are (i) delegated by, and (ii)

performed under the supervision of, a licensed Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM), and which do not constitute the practice of veterinary medicine reserved to veterinarians under Republic Act No. 9268.

- c. Board — the Professional Regulatory Board of Veterinary Technologists.
- d. Commission — the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC).
- e. Accredited Veterinary Workplace (AVW) — an establishment, facility, office, or unit accredited or recognized pursuant to the standards promulgated by the Board and approved by the Commission, where RVTs may render services under proper supervision.
- f. Practice of Veterinary Medicine — as defined and regulated under Republic Act No. 9268.

SECTION 4. *Creation of the Professional Regulatory Board of Veterinary Technologists.* – There is hereby created a Professional Regulatory Board of Veterinary Technologists under the administrative supervision and control of the PRC.

- a. The Board shall be composed of a Chairperson and two (2) Members appointed by the President of the Philippines from a list of nominees submitted by the Commission.
- b. The Chairperson and Members shall be (i) citizens and residents of the Philippines, (ii) of proven integrity and good moral character, and (iii) with at least five (5) years of relevant professional experience immediately preceding appointment.
- c. For representation and alignment with veterinary regulation, the Board shall be composed of one (1) licensed Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and two (2) Registered Veterinary Technologists, all in good standing.

SECTION 5. *Powers and Duties of the Board* – The Board shall exercise the following powers and functions, subject to the approval of the Commission where required:

- a. Enforce, administer, and implement the provisions of this Act and its Implementing Rules and Regulations;
- b. Determine and evaluate the qualifications of applicants for licensure examination, registration, and issuance of Certificates of Registration and Professional Identification Cards, and where applicable, special permits;
- c. Prepare, adopt, and update the syllabi and subjects of the VTLE, in consultation with CHED, the academe, and the accredited integrated professional organization of RVTs;
- d. Register successful examinees, issue Certificates of Registration and Professional Identification Cards, and maintain and update the registry/roster of RVTs;
- e. Promulgate, adopt, and enforce a Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for RVTs, and such other professional and technical standards consistent with this Act;
- f. Prescribe guidelines on Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for RVTs, consistent with existing CPD law and PRC rules;
- g. Investigate, hear, and decide administrative cases involving violations of this Act, its IRR, and the Code of Ethics/Standards; and, for this purpose, issue subpoena ad testificandum and subpoena duces tecum, and administer oaths, after due notice and hearing;

- h. Suspend, revoke, or reinstate Certificates of Registration and/or Professional Identification Cards, and impose administrative sanctions in accordance with this Act and PRC rules;
- i. Promulgate standards for the accreditation/recognition of Accredited Veterinary Workplaces (AVWs) and monitor compliance therewith, in coordination with relevant government agencies when appropriate.

SECTION 6. *Licensure Examination Requirement* – No person shall practice veterinary technology or use the title “Veterinary Technologist,” “Registered Veterinary Technologist,” or the initials “RVT” without holding a valid Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification Card issued by the Commission upon recommendation of the Board.

SECTION 7. Qualifications of Applicants for the Licensure Examination. — An applicant for the VTLE must:

- a. be a citizen of the Philippines (or a foreign national whose country grants reciprocity to Filipino RVTs, subject to conditions in the IRR);
- b. be of good moral character;
- c. be a graduate of a CHED-recognized BSVT program; Provided, That an equivalency/bridging mechanism may be allowed by the Board in coordination with CHED under the IRR, subject to minimum outcomes and practicum requirements.

SECTION 8. *Scope and Coverage of the Licensure Examination* – The VTLE shall test scientific, technical, and ethical competencies necessary for entry-level practice. The Board shall determine the subjects and their relative weights, and may update the same with CHED consultation.

A passing rating shall be a general average of seventy-five percent (75%) with no rating below sixty percent (60%) in any subject.

SECTION 9. *Issuance of Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification Card; Renewal.* —

- a. A successful examinee shall be issued a Certificate of Registration and a Professional Identification Card as authority to practice veterinary technology.
- b. The Professional Identification Card shall be renewed every three (3) years, subject to compliance with CPD requirements and PRC rules.

SECTION 10. *Registration Without Examination (Transitional Provisions)* – Within three (3) years from the effectivity of this Act, the Board may recommend registration without examination to qualified applicants who meet the requirements of this Section and the IRR, subject to verification and good standing.

The following may qualify:

- a. BSVT graduates with at least five (5) years of documented veterinary technology practice prior to the effectivity of this Act;
- b. BSVT graduates who have served as full-time faculty for at least five (5) years in veterinary technology, veterinary medicine, or related programs; or

- c. BSVT graduates who have obtained a Master's or Doctorate degree in veterinary technology, veterinary medicine, or related sciences, with relevant professional experience as may be required by the IRR.

Provided, That no applicant with a final conviction for a crime involving moral turpitude, or with a final administrative finding involving dishonesty or professional misconduct related to practice, shall be qualified under this Section.

SECTION 11. *Scope of Practice of Registered Veterinary Technologists* – RVTs may perform technical, clinical support, laboratory, and public health support functions, provided that these are delegated by and performed under the supervision of a licensed DVM, and provided further that such acts do not constitute the practice of veterinary medicine under Republic Act No. 9268.

- a. Clinical support and animal nursing — including assistance in clinical examinations, animal nursing care, administration of treatments as specifically ordered by the supervising DVM, monitoring of anesthesia as delegated, and assistance in surgery and post-operative management, subject to standards promulgated by the Board.
- b. Laboratory and diagnostic support — including collection, processing, and routine analysis of specimens; performance of routine diagnostic tests; radiologic and ultrasonography assistance; and compliance with biosafety and quality assurance standards.
- c. Production animal and aquaculture support — including disease monitoring support, vaccination support as ordered, production data recording, sanitation, and biosecurity implementation.
- d. Public health and One Health support — participation in zoonotic disease surveillance, outbreak response support, meat and food safety support roles as allowed by applicable laws and inter-agency protocols.
- e. Supervision — The Board shall define levels of supervision (direct, indirect, general), including circumstances where the supervising DVM need not be physically present, documentation requirements, and safeguards for animal welfare and public safety.

SECTION 12. *Prohibited Acts* – It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- a. practice veterinary technology or represent oneself as an RVT without a valid Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification Card;
- b. use the title “Registered Veterinary Technologist,” “Veterinary Technologist,” or “RVT” without authority under this Act;
- c. perform acts reserved to licensed veterinarians under Republic Act No. 9268;
- d. sign or issue reports, certifications, or official documents beyond the technical authority of an RVT as may be defined by the Board and approved by the Commission;
- e. practice without the required level of supervision by a licensed DVM, as defined by the Board;
- f. practice in an unaccredited/unrecognized veterinary workplace when accreditation/recognition is required under this Act or its IRR; or
- g. commit fraud, misrepresentation, gross negligence, or unethical conduct in the practice of veterinary technology.

SECTION 13. Penal and Administrative Sanctions. — (a) Any person who violates Sections 6 and 12(a) to 12(f) of this Act shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of Fifty Thousand Pesos (₱50,000.00) to Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱200,000.00), or imprisonment of six (6) months to four (4) years, or both, at the discretion of the court. (b) The Board, subject to PRC rules, may impose administrative sanctions, including reprimand, suspension, or revocation of the Certificate of Registration and/or Professional Identification Card, after due notice and hearing.

SECTION 14. *Role of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED)* – CHED shall regulate, strengthen, and improve the BSVT program nationwide. It shall review and update curriculum standards to ensure outcomes alignment and global competitiveness, and ensure that higher education institutions have adequate laboratories, clinical partnerships, faculty, and animal welfare-compliant facilities.

CHED shall prescribe an outcome-based curriculum that includes, among others: (a) clinical and diagnostic competencies; (b) epidemiology, biosafety, and biosecurity; (c) livestock and aquaculture health; (d) animal welfare, ethics, and jurisprudence; (e) field training, research, and extension; and (f) One Health principles and intersectoral collaboration.

SECTION 15. *Accreditation of BSVT Programs and Training Sites.* — CHED, in coordination with the Board and the Commission, shall ensure that HEIs offering the BSVT program comply with minimum standards, including internship/practicum requirements in Accredited Veterinary Workplaces or such other facilities as may be approved under the IRR.

SECTION 16. *Continuing Professional Development (CPD).* — All RVTs shall comply with applicable CPD law and PRC rules.

SECTION 17. *Professional Integration (AIPO).* — The veterinary technology profession shall be integrated into one (1) national organization of Registered Veterinary Technologists, which shall be registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission as a non-stock, non-profit organization, and recognized by the Board, subject to the approval of the Commission, as the one and only Accredited Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO) of RVTs.

A Registered Veterinary Technologist duly registered with the Board and the Commission shall automatically become a member of the AIPO and shall receive the benefits and privileges appurtenant thereto upon payment of required fees and dues. Membership in the AIPO shall not be a bar to membership in other professional associations.

SECTION 18. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the Commission, in coordination with the Board, CHED, and relevant agencies including the DA, DOH, DENR, and DILG, shall promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations.

SECTION 19. *Appropriations.* — The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the PRC. Thereafter, such

sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 20. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 21. Repealing Clause – All laws, orders, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 22. Effectivity – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.