

**A-Engrossed**  
**Senate Bill 1539**

Ordered by the Senate February 17  
Including Senate Amendments dated February 17

Printed pursuant to Senate Interim Rule 213.28 by order of the President of the Senate in conformance with pre-session filing rules, indicating neither advocacy nor opposition on the part of the President (at the request of Senate Interim Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire)

**SUMMARY**

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

**Digest: The Act says a person might be allowed to do certain jobs with animals, like checking if cows are pregnant, even if they are not veterinarians. Allows the OSVMEB to adopt rules to explain when this is okay. (Flesch Readability Score: 62.8).**

*[Digest: The Act says a person might be allowed to do certain jobs with animals, like checking if cows are pregnant, even if they are not veterinarians. Allows the ODA to adopt rules to explain when this is okay. (Flesch Readability Score: 65.1).]*

Allows an individual to verify whether cattle are pregnant without holding a valid license issued by the Oregon State Veterinary Medical Examining Board under certain circumstances. Permits the [State Department of Agriculture] board to adopt rules.

**Sunsets on January 1, 2031.**

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

1  
2 Relating to providing animal health care; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 686.040.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 686.040 is amended to read:

5 686.040. (1) ORS 686.020 (1)(a) does not apply to **the following:**

6 (a) Commissioned veterinary officers of the United States Army, or those in the employ of other  
7 United States Government agencies while engaged in their official capacity, unless they enter into  
8 a private practice.

9 (b) **An individual who has received training to verify whether cattle are pregnant and is**  
10 **performing pregnancy verification services on cattle within the scope of the individual's**  
11 **training.**

12 (2) Nothing in ORS 167.322 or 686.020 (1)(a) shall be so construed as to prevent any person or  
13 the agent or employee of the person from practicing veterinary medicine and surgery or dentistry  
14 in a humane manner on any animal belonging to the person, agent or employee or for gratuitous  
15 services or from dehorning and vaccinating cattle for the person, agent or employee.

16 (3) Nothing in ORS 686.020 (1)(a) shall be so construed as to prevent the selling of veterinary  
17 remedies and instruments by a licensed pharmacist at the regular place of business of the licensed  
18 pharmacist.

19 (4) A practitioner of allied health methods may practice that method on animals without vio-  
20 lating ORS 686.020 (1)(a), as long as the practice is in conformance with laws and rules governing  
21 the practitioner's practice and the practice is upon referral from a licensed veterinarian for treat-  
22 ment or therapy specified by the veterinarian.

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (5) ORS 686.020 (1)(a) does not apply to the lay testing of poultry by the whole blood  
2 agglutination test.

3 (6) A certified euthanasia technician holding an active, current certificate may inject sodium  
4 pentobarbital, sedative and analgesic medications and any other euthanasia substance approved by  
5 the Oregon State Veterinary Medical Examining Board without violating ORS 686.020 (1)(a).

6 (7) The board by rule may specify circumstances under which unlicensed persons may give  
7 vaccinations, administer an anesthetic or otherwise assist in the practice of veterinary medicine.

8 (8) Any individual licensed as a veterinarian in another state may be used in consultation in this  
9 state with a person licensed to practice veterinary medicine in this state provided the consultation  
10 does not exceed 30 days in any 365 consecutive days.

11 (9) ORS 686.020 (1)(a) does not apply to authorized representatives of the State Department of  
12 Agriculture in the discharge of any duty authorized by the department.

13 (10) ORS 686.020 (1)(a) does not apply to an unlicensed representative of a livestock association,  
14 cow-testing association, or poultry association who, for the benefit of the association, takes blood  
15 samples for laboratory tests for the diagnosis of livestock or poultry diseases, but only if this person  
16 has received authorization from the State Department of Agriculture following a written request to  
17 the department.

18 (11) ORS 686.020 (1)(a) does not apply to persons permitted by the State Department of Fish and  
19 Wildlife to rehabilitate orphaned, sick or injured wildlife, as defined in ORS 496.004, for the purpose  
20 of restoring the animals to the wild.

21 (12) ORS 686.020 (1)(a) does not apply to students, agents or employees of public or private ed-  
22 ucational or medical research institutions involved in educational or research activities under the  
23 auspices of those institutions.

24 (13) ORS 686.020 (1)(a) does not apply to:

25 (a) Veterinarians employed by Oregon State University;

26 (b) Instructors of veterinary courses; or

27 (c) Students of veterinary science who participate in the diagnosis and treatment of animals if  
28 the students:

29 (A) Are participating in the diagnosis and treatment of animals while engaged in an educational  
30 program approved by the board or a college of veterinary medicine accredited by the American  
31 Veterinary Medical Association; and

32 (B) Are under the direct supervision of an Oregon licensed veterinarian or a veterinarian ap-  
33 proved by the board or Oregon State University to supervise students in the educational program.

34 **(14) The Oregon State Veterinary Medical Examining Board may by rule specify circum-**  
35 **stances under which unlicensed persons may engage in activities described in subsection**  
36 **(1)(b) of this section.**

37 **SECTION 2.** ORS 686.040, as amended by section 1 of this 2026 Act, is amended to read:

38 686.040. (1) ORS 686.020 (1)(a) does not apply to *[the following:]*

39 *[(a)]* commissioned veterinary officers of the United States Army, or those in the employ of other  
40 United States Government agencies while engaged in their official capacity, unless they enter into  
41 a private practice.

42 *[(b)]* *An individual who has received training to verify whether cattle are pregnant and is per-*  
43 *forming pregnancy verification services on cattle within the scope of the individual's training.]*

44 (2) Nothing in ORS 167.322 or 686.020 (1)(a) shall be so construed as to prevent any person or  
45 the agent or employee of the person from practicing veterinary medicine and surgery or dentistry

1 in a humane manner on any animal belonging to the person, agent or employee or for gratuitous  
2 services or from dehorning and vaccinating cattle for the person, agent or employee.

3 (3) Nothing in ORS 686.020 (1)(a) shall be so construed as to prevent the selling of veterinary  
4 remedies and instruments by a licensed pharmacist at the regular place of business of the licensed  
5 pharmacist.

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7 lating ORS 686.020 (1)(a), as long as the practice is in conformance with laws and rules governing  
8 the practitioner's practice and the practice is upon referral from a licensed veterinarian for treat-  
9 ment or therapy specified by the veterinarian.

10 (5) ORS 686.020 (1)(a) does not apply to the lay testing of poultry by the whole blood  
11 agglutination test.

12 (6) A certified euthanasia technician holding an active, current certificate may inject sodium  
13 pentobarbital, sedative and analgesic medications and any other euthanasia substance approved by  
14 the Oregon State Veterinary Medical Examining Board without violating ORS 686.020 (1)(a).

15 (7) The board by rule may specify circumstances under which unlicensed persons may give  
16 vaccinations, administer an anesthetic or otherwise assist in the practice of veterinary medicine.

17 (8) Any individual licensed as a veterinarian in another state may be used in consultation in this  
18 state with a person licensed to practice veterinary medicine in this state provided the consultation  
19 does not exceed 30 days in any 365 consecutive days.

20 (9) ORS 686.020 (1)(a) does not apply to authorized representatives of the State Department of  
21 Agriculture in the discharge of any duty authorized by the department.

22 (10) ORS 686.020 (1)(a) does not apply to an unlicensed representative of a livestock association,  
23 cow-testing association, or poultry association who, for the benefit of the association, takes blood  
24 samples for laboratory tests for the diagnosis of livestock or poultry diseases, but only if this person  
25 has received authorization from the State Department of Agriculture following a written request to  
26 the department.

27 (11) ORS 686.020 (1)(a) does not apply to persons permitted by the State Department of Fish and  
28 Wildlife to rehabilitate orphaned, sick or injured wildlife, as defined in ORS 496.004, for the purpose  
29 of restoring the animals to the wild.

30 (12) ORS 686.020 (1)(a) does not apply to students, agents or employees of public or private ed-  
31 ucational or medical research institutions involved in educational or research activities under the  
32 auspices of those institutions.

33 (13) ORS 686.020 (1)(a) does not apply to:

34 (a) Veterinarians employed by Oregon State University;

35 (b) Instructors of veterinary courses; or

36 (c) Students of veterinary science who participate in the diagnosis and treatment of animals if  
37 the students:

38 (A) Are participating in the diagnosis and treatment of animals while engaged in an educational  
39 program approved by the board or a college of veterinary medicine accredited by the American  
40 Veterinary Medical Association; and

41 (B) Are under the direct supervision of an Oregon licensed veterinarian or a veterinarian ap-  
42 proved by the board or Oregon State University to supervise students in the educational program.

43 [(14) *The Oregon State Veterinary Medical Examining Board may by rule specify circumstances*  
44 *under which unlicensed persons may engage in activities described in subsection (1)(b) of this*  
45 *section.*]

