



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

207 STATE HOUSE
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

JB PRITZKER
GOVERNOR

May 3, 2023

To the Honorable Members of the Illinois General Assembly:

In compliance with the requirements of the Regulatory Sunset Act (5 ILCS 80), the Governor's Office of Management and Budget has undertaken a study of the Veterinary Medicine and Surgical Practice Act (225 ILCS 115). GOMB has provided my office with a copy of the study and its recommendations regarding whether the Act should be terminated, modified, or continued. I have reviewed GOMB's submission and offer the following comments and recommendations to the General Assembly for its consideration.

The Veterinary Medicine and Surgical Practice Act governs the licensure of veterinarians in the State of Illinois. The absence of regulation of veterinarians would pose a significant and direct harm to the safety and welfare of the public. The lack of regulation would negatively impact the ethical standards that protect animals, their owners, and the veterinary services they require for their pets and other animals. A veterinarian's primary responsibility includes diagnosing and treating illnesses, injuries, and diseases in household pets, livestock, and wildlife. Licensure of this profession is necessary to protect public safety and welfare by ensuring veterinarians, who provide healthcare services to animals have the knowledge, experience, and competency necessary to provide their services. The public welfare is well served when the medical needs of animals are met by professionals who have the requisite training and experience. Following best practices should minimize the suffering incurred by animals undergoing surgeries and invasive procedures, as well as preventing the transmission of diseases to humans. Therefore, the health and safety of the public is put at risk without proper training, licensing, and oversight of veterinary medicine.

The absence of regulation of this industry would pose a significant and direct harm to the welfare of the public. Current evidence does not suggest that the imposition of the state regulatory standards is such a burden as to outweigh the benefits to the health, safety, and welfare of the people of Illinois in continuing the licensure and regulation of this profession. Consequently, the Act is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the people of Illinois.

The Veterinary Medicine and Surgical Practice Act should be continued to promote and enhance the safety and welfare of the public and doing so would not place an undue burden on licensees or commerce.

The Governor's Office of Management and Budget's report is provided for your reference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JB Pritzker", written over a large, stylized "A" or similar mark.

Governor JB Pritzker