



Virginia  
Regulatory  
Town Hall

[townhall.virginia.gov](http://townhall.virginia.gov)

## Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) Agency Background Document

<b>Agency name</b>	Board of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Health Professions
<b>Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) citation</b>	18VAC150-20-10 et seq.
<b>Regulation title</b>	Regulations Governing the Practice of Veterinary Medicine
<b>Action title</b>	Elimination of restriction on practical training in veterinary college
<b>Date this document prepared</b>	10/27/14

This information is required for executive branch review and the Virginia Registrar of Regulations, pursuant to the Virginia Administrative Process Act (APA), Executive Orders 14 (2010) and 58 (1999), and the *Virginia Register Form, Style, and Procedure Manual*.

### Purpose

*Please describe the subject matter and intent of the planned regulatory action. Also include a brief explanation of the need for and the goals of the new or amended regulation.*

The purpose of the regulatory action is to eliminate a burdensome restriction on the preceptorships for veterinary students in which they gain practical experience under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian. Currently, students are not allowed to be engaged in a preceptorship until their final year in veterinary college. Therefore, they do not have the opportunity to practice what they are learning in the first three years and believe that they are less skillful and competent as practitioners when they graduate. The amendment is strongly supported by the Virginia/Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine.

### Legal basis

*Please identify the state and/or federal legal authority to promulgate this proposed regulation, including (1) the most relevant citations to the Code of Virginia or General Assembly chapter number(s), if applicable, and (2) promulgating entity, i.e., agency, board, or person. Your citation should include a specific provision authorizing the promulgating entity to regulate this specific subject or program, as well as a reference to the agency/board/person's overall regulatory authority.*

**Chapter 24 of Title 54.1** establishes the general powers and duties of health regulatory boards, including the Board of Veterinary Medicine, the responsibility to promulgate regulations:

*§ 54.1-2400. General powers and duties of health regulatory boards.--The general powers and duties of health regulatory boards shall be:*

6. To promulgate regulations in accordance with the Administrative Process Act (§ 9-6.14:1 et seq.) which are reasonable and necessary to administer effectively the regulatory system. Such regulations shall not conflict with the purposes and intent of this chapter or of Chapter 1 and Chapter 25 of this title...

The specific authority of the Board relating to practical training for students of veterinary medicine is found in:

**§ 54.1-3804. Specific powers of Board.**

In addition to the powers granted in § 54.1-2400, the Board shall have the following specific powers and duties:

1. To establish essential requirements and standards for approval of veterinary programs.
2. To establish and monitor programs for the practical training of qualified students of veterinary medicine or veterinary technology in college or university programs of veterinary medicine or veterinary technology.

**Need**

*Please detail the specific reasons why the agency has determined that the proposed regulatory action is essential to protect the health, safety, or welfare of citizens. In addition, delineate any potential issues that may need to be addressed as the regulation is developed.*

---

Since preceptees are restricted to perform only those tasks for which they have been adequately instructed and must practice under the on-premises supervision of a licensed veterinarian, the Board believes supervised practical experience through the course of veterinary college will be beneficial to patients and will adequately protect the health and safety of the public.

**Substance**

*Please detail any changes that will be proposed. Be sure to define all acronyms. For new regulations, include a summary of the proposed regulatory action. Where provisions of an existing regulation are being amended, explain how the existing regulation will be changed.*

---

The amendment to section 130 requested by the petition for rule-making is as follows: *A veterinary student who is duly enrolled and in good standing in a veterinary college or school accredited or approved by the AVMA and in the final year of his training or after completion of an equivalent number of hours as approved by the board may be engaged in a preceptorship or externship.* The Board will consider comments on the NOIRA in determining the proposed amendment to be adopted.

## Alternatives

*Please describe all viable alternatives to the proposed regulatory action that have been or will be considered to meet the essential purpose of the action. Also, please describe the process by which the agency has considered or will consider other alternatives for achieving the need in the most cost-effective manner.*

---

No alternatives were considered as an amendment to section 130 is the least burdensome and intrusive alternative that meets the essential purpose of the action. The amendment is in response to a petition for rule-making which was supported by veterinary students and veterinarians.

## Public participation

*Please indicate whether the agency is seeking comments on the intended regulatory action, including ideas to assist the agency in the development of the proposal and the costs and benefits of the alternatives stated in this notice or other alternatives. Also, indicate whether a public hearing is to be held to receive comments on this notice.*

---

The agency is seeking comments on this regulatory action, including but not limited to 1) ideas to be considered in the development of this proposal, 2) the costs and benefits of the alternatives stated in this background document or other alternatives and 3) potential impacts of the regulation. The agency is also seeking information on impacts on small businesses as defined in § 2.2-4007.1 of the Code of Virginia. Information may include 1) projected reporting, recordkeeping and other administrative costs, 2) the probable effect of the regulation on affected small businesses, and 3) the description of less intrusive or costly alternatives for achieving the purpose of the regulation.

Anyone wishing to submit comments may do so via the Regulatory Town Hall website (<http://www.townhall.virginia.gov>), or by mail, email, or fax to Elaine Yeatts, Agency Regulatory Coordinator, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, VA 23233 or at [elaine.yeatts@dhp.virginia.gov](mailto:elaine.yeatts@dhp.virginia.gov). Written comments must include the name and address of the commenter. In order to be considered, comments must be received by midnight on the last day of the public comment period.

A public hearing will be held following the publication of the proposed stage of this regulatory action and notice of the hearing will be posted on the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall website (<http://www.townhall.virginia.gov>) and on the Commonwealth Calendar website (<http://www.virginia.gov/cmsportal3/cgi-bin/calendar.cgi>). Both oral and written comments may be submitted at that time.

The regulatory committee of the Board will serve as the panel to develop proposed regulations; there will not be an ad hoc committee appointed.

## Family impact

*Assess the potential impact of the proposed regulatory action on the institution of the family and family stability including to what extent the regulatory action will: 1) strengthen or erode the authority and rights of parents in the education, nurturing, and supervision of their children; 2) encourage or discourage economic self-sufficiency, self-pride, and the assumption of responsibility for oneself, one's spouse, and one's children and/or elderly parents; 3) strengthen or erode the marital commitment; and 4) increase or decrease disposable family income.*

---

There is no impact on the family.