

House Bill 1195

By: Representatives Leverett of the 123<sup>rd</sup>, Mathiak of the 82<sup>nd</sup>, Gullett of the 19<sup>th</sup>, Camp of the 135<sup>th</sup>, and Cooper of the 45<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 7 of Chapter 50 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to telemedicine by veterinarians and veterinary technicians, so as to revise provisions  
3 relating to the practice and provision of veterinary teletriage and veterinary telemedicine; to  
4 provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and  
5 for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Article 7 of Chapter 50 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
9 telemedicine by veterinarians and veterinary technicians, is amended by revising Code  
10 Section 43-50-121, relating to practice of veterinary teletriage and veterinary telemedicine  
11 regardless of whether a veterinarian-client-patient relationship exists, as follows:

12 "43-50-121.

13 (a) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this chapter, a licensed veterinarian ~~or a~~  
14 ~~veterinary technician supervised by a licensed veterinarian~~ may practice veterinary  
15 ~~teletriage~~ telemedicine, regardless of whether a veterinarian-client-patient relationship

16 exists, if paragraphs (4) through (7) of subsection (a) of Code Section 43-50-120 and the  
17 following conditions are met:

18 (1) No licensed veterinarian ~~or veterinary technician~~ is available within a 50 mile radius  
19 of the animal's location to perform a physical examination at a veterinary facility or the  
20 premises where the animal is located within 24 hours of the client's request for services;  
21 and

22 (2) The licensed veterinarian ~~or veterinary technician~~ requests that, as soon as reasonably  
23 practical, the client present the animal patient for a physical examination at the veterinary  
24 facility or at the premises where such animal is located; ~~and~~

25 ~~(3) The licensed veterinarian or veterinary technician informs the client, in writing, of~~  
26 ~~the veterinarian or supervising veterinarian's full name, location, license number,~~  
27 ~~licensure status, and limitations involved in accessing veterinary teletriage, and obtains~~  
28 ~~a signed and dated statement from the client indicating receipt of such required~~  
29 ~~information.~~

30 ~~(b) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this chapter, a licensed veterinarian may~~  
31 ~~practice veterinary telemedicine, regardless of whether a veterinarian-client-patient~~  
32 ~~relationship exists, if the licensed veterinarian satisfies the conditions set forth in~~  
33 ~~paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a) of this Code section and paragraphs (1) and (2) and~~  
34 ~~paragraphs (4) through (7) of subsection (a) of Code Section 43-50-120.~~

35 ~~(c) Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to require or impose a duty upon any~~  
36 ~~licensed veterinarian or veterinary technician to identify or refer any client to a licensed~~  
37 ~~veterinarian located within the radius imposed under paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of this~~  
38 ~~Code section before practicing veterinary teletriage or veterinary telemedicine."~~

39 **SECTION 2.**

40 Said article is further amended by revising Code Section 43-50-122, relating to providing  
41 veterinary teleadvice regardless of whether a veterinarian-client-patient relationship exists,  
42 as follows:

43 "43-50-122.

44 Nothing in this chapter shall ~~be construed to prohibit~~ require a veterinary-client-patient  
45 relationship for a licensed veterinarian or a veterinary technician supervised by a licensed  
46 veterinarian from providing to provide veterinary teleadvice or veterinary teletriage;  
47 regardless of whether a veterinary-client-patient relationship exists."

48 **SECTION 3.**

49 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law  
50 without such approval.

51 **SECTION 4.**

52 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.