

House Bill 1195 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

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

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 veterinary telemedicine, teleadvice, and teletriage and the veterinary-client-patient
4 relationship; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal
5 conflicting laws; and 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 in 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, by revising
12 subsection (a) as follows:

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, regardless of whether a veterinarian-client-patient relationship exists, if the
16 following conditions are met:

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17 ~~(1) No licensed veterinarian or veterinary technician is available within a 50 mile radius~~
 18 ~~of the animal's location to perform a physical examination at a veterinary facility or the~~
 19 ~~premises where the animal is located within 24 hours of the client's request for services;~~
 20 ~~(2)(1) The licensed veterinarian or veterinary technician requests that, as soon as~~
 21 ~~reasonably practical, the client present the animal patient for a physical examination at~~
 22 ~~the veterinary facility or at the premises where such animal is located; and~~
 23 ~~(3)(2) The licensed veterinarian or veterinary technician informs the client, in writing,~~
 24 ~~of the veterinarian or supervising veterinarian's full name, location, license number,~~
 25 ~~licensure status, and limitations involved in accessing veterinary teletriage, and obtains~~
 26 ~~a signed and dated statement from the client indicating receipt of such required~~
 27 ~~information."~~

28 **SECTION 2.**

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

32 "43-50-122.

33 Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to:

34 (1) Prohibit ~~prohibit~~ a licensed veterinarian or a veterinary technician supervised by a
 35 licensed veterinarian from providing veterinary teleadvice, regardless of whether a
 36 veterinary-client-patient relationship exists; or

37 (2) Require a valid veterinary-client-patient relationship in order to provide veterinary
 38 teleadvice or veterinary teletriage."

39 **SECTION 3.**

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

42

SECTION 4.

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