

SENATE BILL NO. 229—SENATOR HANSEN

MARCH 8, 2023

Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

SUMMARY—Exempts certain persons who perform certain dental services on equines and livestock from provisions governing veterinary medicine. (BDR 54-1022)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to veterinary medicine; exempting certain persons who perform certain dental services on equines and livestock from provisions governing veterinary medicine; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

1 Existing law defines the term “practice of veterinary medicine” for purposes of  
2 regulating such a practice to include diagnosing, treating, correcting, changing,  
3 relieving or preventing animal disease and engaging in various other actions,  
4 including dentistry. (NRS 638.008) Existing law makes it unlawful to practice  
5 veterinary medicine, including dentistry, in this State without a license. (NRS  
6 638.090) Existing law authorizes the Nevada State Board of Veterinary Medical  
7 Examiners to adopt regulations concerning alternative veterinary medicine,  
8 including dentistry. (NRS 638.070) The Board has adopted regulations governing  
9 the practice of equine dentistry and the persons authorized to engage in such a  
10 practice. (NAC 638.735-638.748) **Sections 2, 3 and 5** of this bill remove teeth  
11 floating services performed by a person who has received certain certification from  
12 the provisions of law governing veterinary medicine when performed on an equine  
13 or certain livestock, thereby allowing such a person to perform such teeth floating  
14 services in this State without holding a license or being subject to certain  
15 regulations of the Board. **Section 6** of this bill declares void the existing regulations  
16 governing equine dentistry, which conflict, in part, with this bill. **Section 4** of this  
17 bill makes a conforming change to indicate the proper placement of **sections 2 and**  
18 **3** in the Nevada Revised Statutes.



THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1       **Section 1.** Chapter 638 of NRS is hereby amended by adding  
2 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 and 3 of this act.

3       **Sec. 2.** *“Dentistry” does not include teeth floating services*  
4 *provided by a person who is exempt from the provisions of this*  
5 *chapter pursuant to section 5 of this act.*

6       **Sec. 3.** *“Teeth floating services” means the removal of*  
7 *enamel points and the smoothing, contouring and leveling of*  
8 *dental arcades and incisors.*

9       **Sec. 4.** NRS 638.001 is hereby amended to read as follows:

10       638.001 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise  
11 requires, the words and terms defined in NRS 638.0015 to 638.014,  
12 inclusive, *and sections 2 and 3 of this act* have the meanings  
13 ascribed to them in those sections.

14       **Sec. 5.** NRS 638.015 is hereby amended to read as follows:

15       638.015 Nothing in this chapter applies:

16       1. To the gratuitous castrating, dehorning or vaccinating of  
17 domesticated animals nor to the gratuitous treatment of diseased  
18 animals by friends or neighbors of the owner thereof, except that all  
19 vaccinations for zoonotic diseases must be administered by a  
20 licensed veterinarian or a veterinary technician under the direct  
21 supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

22       2. To debar any veterinarian in the employ of the United States  
23 Government or the State of Nevada from performing official duties  
24 necessary for the conduct of the business of the United States  
25 Government or the State of Nevada, or a political subdivision  
26 thereof, upon which the veterinarian is assigned.

27       3. To any person who is a diplomate from an approved  
28 specialty board of the American Veterinary Medical Association  
29 who is called into the State for consultation by a person licensed to  
30 practice under this chapter for a period not to exceed 30 days in any  
31 12-month period if the person practices under the auspices of a  
32 licensed veterinarian.

33       4. To the giving of advice with respect to or the performance of  
34 acts which the Board by rule has prescribed as accepted livestock  
35 management practices.

36       5. To the owner of an animal or full-time regular employee of  
37 the owner who is caring for and treating an animal which belongs to  
38 the owner unless the ownership of the animal is transferred for the  
39 purposes of circumventing this chapter, except that all vaccinations  
40 for zoonotic diseases must be administered by a licensed  
41 veterinarian or a person under the direct supervision of a licensed  
42 veterinarian.



1 6. To any person or agency that performs humane services for  
2 wildlife animals without charge.

3 7. To any person, other than a veterinarian, who renders aid,  
4 assistance or relief to an animal in an emergency without charge if  
5 the person does not represent himself or herself as holding a license  
6 to practice veterinary medicine or as holding a degree in veterinary  
7 medicine or other related field.

8 8. To any person, other than a veterinarian, who renders  
9 emergency paramedical services to an animal without charge during  
10 the transportation of the animal to a veterinary facility.

11 *9. To any person, other than a veterinarian, who performs*  
12 *teeth floating services on livestock, as that term is defined in NRS*  
13 *205.219, including, without limitation, equines, if the person is*  
14 *certified by the International Association of Equine Dentistry or*  
15 *its successor organization.*

16 **Sec. 6.** The regulations adopted by the Nevada State Board of  
17 Veterinary Medical Examiners, which are codified as NAC 638.735  
18 to 638.748, inclusive, are hereby declared void. In preparing the  
19 supplements to the Nevada Administrative Code on or after July 1,  
20 2023, the Legislative Counsel shall remove those regulations.

21 **Sec. 7.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

