

# NEBRASKA

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DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Jim Pillen, Governor

September 3, 2024

The Honorable Ben Hansen  
Health and Human Services Committee  
Nebraska Legislature  
P.O. Box 94604  
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Chairman Hansen:

The Department of Health and Human Services' statement on the explanation of effectiveness of the temporary veterinary technician license, below, reflects its sole views. The question has also been sent to the Board of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery and its response will be forwarded should they choose to opine.

If temporary veterinary technicians are no longer regulated, unlicensed assistants are currently authorized by regulations 172 NAC 180 to perform certain delegated animal health care tasks under the supervision of a veterinarian. However, these unlicensed assistants are performing lower-level tasks and do not provide the level of assurance to the public that comes with required training and competency assessment. The veterinarian would be ultimately responsible for the care of an animal.

There have been no disciplinary actions involving temporary veterinary technicians. Holding a license in another state or having graduated from an approved veterinary technician program have been sufficient to regulate these individuals who are practicing under the supervision of a veterinarian. This allows individuals to join the workforce sooner in a profession for which there is a shortage in Nebraska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy A. Tesmet".

Timothy A. Tesmet, MD  
Chief Medical Officer