

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 veterinarian locum tenens 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.

The veterinarian locum tenens license was modeled after the physician locum tenens in the Medicine and Surgery Practice Act (Neb. Rev. Stat. 38-2036) because there were times of need when there was not enough veterinarian coverage.

The veterinarian locum tenens license allows veterinarians from other states with similar licensure requirements to practice in Nebraska during a time of need such as during a medical emergency or natural disaster. If the veterinarian locum tenens license is no longer offered, veterinary care could be limited or unavailable during such times of need.

The veterinarian locum tenens has been issued 77 times since 2011 when the statute became effective. There have been no disciplinary actions. The requirement to hold a license in another state with requirements that are equal or that exceed Nebraska requirements provides adequate protection for the public.

Sincerely,

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

Timothy A. Tesmer, MD
Chief Medical Officer