

**FINAL
FISCAL NOTE**

Drafting Number: LLS 15-0726
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Lebsack
 Sen. Garcia

Date: July 23, 2015
Bill Status: Signed into Law
Fiscal Analyst: Bill Zepernick (303-866-4777)

BILL TOPIC: VETERINARIAN PEER HEALTH ASSISTANCE MENTAL HEALTH EXAM

Fiscal Impact Summary*	FY 2015-2016	FY 2016-2017
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	Minimal increase.	
FTE Position Change		
Appropriation Required: None.		

* This summary shows changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year.

Summary of Legislation

The bill allows the State Board of Veterinary Medicine (the state board) to require a licensed veterinarian, upon receipt of a signed complaint by a complainant, to submit to a mental health examination to determine his or her ability to practice, if the state board has reason to believe that the veterinarian is unable to practice with a reasonable degree of skill and safety due to a mental illness or due to excessive use of alcohol or drugs. Following such an examination, the state board may enter into a confidential agreement with a veterinarian to limit his or her practice due to his or her illness or condition if necessary to practice safety. The state board may discipline a veterinarian who fails to comply with the terms of a confidential agreement. The bill also adds a requirement that a signed complaint be received prior to initially referring a veterinarian to the peer assistance program.

State Expenditures

The Department of Regulatory Agencies may have additional workload for the state board to order mental health evaluations for veterinarians and to create and monitor confidential agreements limiting a veterinarian's practice. Violations of confidential agreements may increase disciplinary actions by the state board. Overall, the impact of this workload is assumed to be minimal, and generally will provide an alternate way for the state board to deal with veterinarians with mental health or substance abuse issues in lieu of existing disciplinary options.

Effective Date

The bill was signed by the Governor and became law on May 8, 2015.

State and Local Government Contacts

Regulatory Agencies Law