

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

SENATE BILL 1677

By: Frix

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to veterinary medicine; creating the Veterinary Telemedicine for Livestock Care Act; providing short title; defining terms; providing requirements for the use of telemedicine in veterinarian care; providing conditions for utilization of telemedicine; authorizing the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners to promulgate rules; providing for noncodification; providing for codification; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

This act shall be known as the "Veterinary Telemedicine for Livestock Care Act".

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 698.30c of Title 59, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

As used in this act:

1 1. "Livestock" means cattle, bison, swine, sheep, goats,
2 equine, and poultry raised for commercial, agricultural, or
3 subsistence purposes;

4 2. "Telemedicine" means the practice of veterinary medicine
5 using electronic communications, information technology, or other
6 means of interaction between a licensed veterinarian and a livestock
7 owner or caretaker when the veterinarian and the animal are not in
8 the same physical location; and

9 3. "Veterinarian-client-patient relationship" (VCPR) means the
10 relationship defined in Section 698.2 of Title 59 of the Oklahoma
11 Statutes and veterinary board rules, which may be established
12 through telemedicine under the conditions set forth in this act.

13 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
14 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 698.30d of Title 59, unless
15 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

16 A. Telemedicine may be used by licensed veterinarians to
17 evaluate, diagnose, and provide personalized treatment
18 recommendations for livestock when an in-person examination is not
19 immediately feasible, provided that the:

20 1. Condition of the livestock requires timely veterinary
21 attention to prevent death, serious harm, or unnecessary suffering;

22 2. Use of telemedicine is limited to cases where visual or
23 verbal communication with the owner or caretaker provides sufficient
24 information for the veterinarian to make a professional judgment;

1 3. Veterinarian obtains sufficient information to make an
2 informed clinical decision through live videos, photographs,
3 electronic records, or other approved telecommunication methods; and

4 4. Telemedicine encounter is documented in the patient's
5 medical record in the same manner as an in-person consultation.

6 B. Telemedicine shall not be used as a substitute for annual
7 herd health inspections, vaccinations, or other procedures requiring
8 physical presence, unless approved by the State Board of Veterinary
9 Medical Examiners.

10 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
11 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 698.30e of Title 59, unless
12 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

13 The State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners shall promulgate
14 rules and regulations establishing:

15 1. Standards for the appropriate use of telemedicine in
16 livestock care;

17 2. Requirements for recordkeeping and confidentiality of
18 telemedicine encounters;

19 3. Training for certification standards for veterinarians
20 utilizing telemedicine; and

21 4. Limitations on prescribing medications through telemedicine
22 without a veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR) or an in-
23 person examination, except in emergency cases where immediate
24

1 treatment is necessary in order to preserve animal health and
2 welfare.

3 SECTION 5. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
4 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
5 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
6 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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