

**PROPOSED STATUTE AND/OR RULE CHANGES FOR 2017
LEGISLATIVE SESSION
IDAHO BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE (BOVM)**

Below you will find links to law and/or rule changes that the BOVM is considering for the January, 2017 legislative session in. *Please keep in mind that these are working drafts and subject to change.*

The BOVM seeks your comments and questions on all proposed changes. You may submit a comment or question by attending a scheduled Board meeting on either **June 20, 2016** or **July 14, 2016** (see the BOVM homepage for details and agendas, which will be provided as soon as they are available). You may also e-mail, mail or telephone your comments to the Board office. **Comments pertaining to items scheduled for the January 2017 legislative session should be submitted no later than July 14, 2016.**

Please note:

- Posted drafts do NOT include the entire text of the Board's laws or rules. The drafts contain only those specific sections or rules being changed.
- Any language that bears a strikethrough will be deleted. Any language that is underlined will be added.
- After opening each document, please use the "refresh" button to insure you have the latest draft.

Proposed legislation for 2017 Legislative Session:

1. “Remodeling” Rules

- **IDAPA 46.01.01.004:** *insert information about the dates and location of Board meetings.*
Currently, Board rules do not comply with a statute that states that Board of Veterinary Medicine rules must address when and where Board meetings are held. This rulemaking will correct this deficiency.
- **IDAPA 46.01.01.102:** *reorganize and provide clarity to CE requirements for CVTs.*
The rulemaking seeks to update and clarify provisions regarding continuing education requirements for certified veterinary technicians to be more consistent with comparable provisions for veterinarians.
- **IDAPA 46.01.01.200:** *eliminate the requirement that a Board member sit on the Committee on Humane Euthanasia.*
It is widely recognized that this provision is unnecessary; the rulemaking will remove this requirement.

2. Setting fees for CVTs who wish to move from active to inactive status (or return from inactive to active status).

This rulemaking seeks to impose a \$25 fee to place a certified veterinary technician on **inactive status**, and a \$25 annual renewal fee to remain on inactive status. The current annual fee for active certification is \$75.

3. Raising renewal fees for veterinarians and CVTs to increase Board income.

- The operation of the BOVM depends solely on dedicated funds generated through renewals, applications, and examination fees. Neither tax dollars nor other funds from Idaho's General Fund are used for the agency's operation. Although some agencies are able to offset increasing costs through a steady increase in the number of licensees, the BOVM's numbers have basically held steady; over the past ten (10) years, the total number of Idaho-licensed veterinarians and certified veterinary technicians (CVTs) has increased by only 32 practitioners and 72 technicians respectively.
- The BOVM last had a small increase in fees in 2012; **besides that there have been no increases since 1999**. Over the years, licensee/certificant numbers have not grown quickly enough to absorb the Board's increased expenses, and the modest increase in 2012 did not make up for the lack of increases during the prior thirteen years.
- To remain fiscally self-sufficient, the Board must set fees that are commensurate with program costs. If the Board cannot adequately fund itself, it could be forced into the Idaho Bureau of Occupational Licensing (IBOL). The IBOL currently houses 30 other boards and commissions such as barber examiners, contractors, cosmetologists, morticians, midwives, physical therapists, real estate appraisers, social workers, wastewater professionals, chiropractors, denturists, podiatrists, acupuncturists, geologists, shorthand reporters, and driving businesses.
- The Board's current software was written in the year 2000 in a now archaic language. The Board's current licensing software is obsolete, experiencing frequent malfunctions, and cannot be upgraded as it is written in a programming language that is no longer supported by Microsoft.. The Board's current software was written by an Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) IT employee; however, the ISDA can no longer provide software-writing assistance to the Board, nor can any other State entity provide this service.
- New software will allow the Board to provide enhanced services to its licensees, which have been requested for several years. These enhancements would allow licensees to renew licenses online, pay renewal fees by credit card, and maintain address records from any computer with an internet connection.
- In summary, fees must be increased to rebuild the Board's reserve fund, cover both personnel and operating expenses, and enable the development of new

licensing software. The need for this increase in the Board's income is critical to its ability to continue its service to the people and animals of Idaho as well as our licensees and certificants.

- The Board is considering raising yearly renewal fees for veterinarians from \$175 to \$250, and raising annual CVT certification fees from \$75 to \$100. This will generate approximately \$80,000 per year which will be used to:
 1. Purchase, install and maintain licensing and renewal software, which will cost ~\$125K to develop and approximately \$10k - \$15K to maintain annually.
 2. Compensate for ever-increasing costs of day-today business and personnel.
 3. Retain the 0.6 FT position hired in 2016. The Board now has 2.6 FT staff positions; ideally we will eventually have 3.0 FT staff positions.
 4. Develop and add web-based services for the convenience of our licensees and certificants over time.
 5. Update aging equipment.
 6. Build up an "emergency" reserve fund; at the moment we have very little in reserve – much less than other medical boards.

Persons or interest groups potentially affected by rulemaking:

Individuals currently licensed or certified by the Board of Veterinary Medicine will be affected by this rulemaking. This group includes actively licensed veterinarians and actively certified veterinary technicians.