

**ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE ESTABLISHING A
DEADLINE FOR RENEWAL OF LICENSES AND REGISTRATIONS ISSUED
BY THE STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS
July 28, 2020**

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, the Governor of the State of Maryland issued an Executive Order entitled "*Extending Certain Licenses, Permits, Registrations, and Other Government Authorizations, and Authorizing Suspension of Legal Time Requirements*";

WHEREAS, the March 12, 2020 Order was based on the recognition that the COVID-19 outbreak might make it difficult for both citizens and government employees to take actions within timeframes otherwise required by law;

WHEREAS, the March 12, 2020 Order extended the time to renew licenses, registrations, and other authorizations issued by the State of Maryland until 30 days after the date by which the state of emergency is terminated and the catastrophic health emergency is rescinded;

WHEREAS, on June 19, 2020, the Governor issued an Order entitled "*Amending and Restating the Order of March 12, 2020, Extending Certain Licenses, Permits, Registrations, and Other Governmental Authorizations, and Authorizing Suspension of Legal Time Requirements*";

WHEREAS, the June 19, 2020 Order amended and restated the March 12, 2020 Order, providing for continued extension of time to renew a license, registration, and other authorization issued by the State of Maryland ("Covered Authorization"), but also authorized the head of each unit of State government to exclude a Covered Authorization from the aforementioned extension upon certain findings including that such exclusion is necessary to protect public health, safety or welfare and the renewal of the Covered Authorization can be accomplished with the applicable guidance published by the CDC and MDH;

WHEREAS, the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners ("SBVME") is responsible for licensing and/or registering individuals who wish to practice veterinary medicine and those who wish to register as veterinary technicians in this State;

WHEREAS, the SBVME also is responsible for licensing veterinary hospitals and animal control facilities in this State;

WHEREAS, the purpose of such licensure/registration is to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of animals placed in the care of these individuals at these facilities; more specifically, the licensing and registration of veterinary professionals and facilities enables

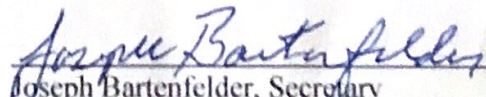
the SBVME to review and evaluate the care provided by professionals and the compliance, cleanliness, sanitation, and lawful operations of veterinary hospitals and animal control facilities;

WHEREAS, the SBVME cannot perform its statutory duties/function without current and accurate information about the professionals and facilities it licenses and/or registers;

WHEREAS, all licenses/registrations issued by the SBVME can be renewed online and thus accomplished with the applicable guidance published by the CDC and MDH;

NOW THEREFORE, having determined that the renewal of licenses/registrations is necessary for public health, safety or welfare and be accomplished with the applicable guidance published by the CDC and MDH, and having publicized this Order on the Department's website, pursuant to the authority granted to me under the June 19, 2020 Order, it is this 28th day of July, 2020, hereby ORDERED that:

- (1) Any of the following persons who was issued a license and/or registration by the SBVME and whose license and/or registration was due to expire on June 30, 2020 and who has not yet renewed such license and/or registration for the licensing year beginning July 1, 2020, shall seek licensure and/or registration on or before September 30, 2020:
 - (a) Persons who wish to practice veterinary medicine in this State;
 - (b) Persons who wish to be registered veterinary technicians in this State;
 - (c) Persons who own and operate veterinary hospitals in this State; and
 - (d) Persons operating animal control facilities; and
- (2) Any of the aforementioned persons who have not applied to renew the license and/or registration with the SBVME on or before September 30, 2020 shall be subject to late fees and other penalties available under the Veterinary Practice Act.


Joseph Bartenfelder, Secretary
Maryland Department of Agriculture