

Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
Minutes for February 3rd, 2023 Meeting

Meet Online at 7:00p.m..

Members in Attendance: Dr. Elizabeth Callahan, President; Dr. Karena Joung, Vice President; Dr. Christine Calvert, Ms. Lynne Chaput, Ms. Patricia Quimby, and Dr. James Reed.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m..

HB325/SB390 Discussion

- The Board held a meeting to discuss HB325.
 - Dr. Calvert will be present to testify in person on February 15th, 2023.
 - The State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners ("SBVME" or "Board") supports HB 325 with amendments. The SBVME does not support any change to the Veterinary Practice Act authorizing veterinarians licensed in other jurisdictions who are not licensed and registered in Maryland to provide veterinary services in Maryland. Licensure and registration of veterinarians ensure that practitioners have acceptable backgrounds and education, complete continuing education, are accessible to the Board for inspection and investigations, and are subject to Board discipline. Shelter animals and those owned by constituents that animal shelters serve deserve the same protections as all other animals in this State, which is why the SBVME urges the committee to amend the bill to strike the changes to the Agriculture Article.
 - The SBVME does not oppose expanding the pool of individuals who may administer rabies vaccines to include Registered Veterinary Technicians. These amendments would allow the administration of rabies vaccines by veterinary technicians registered in accordance with Section 2-309 of the Agriculture Article ("RVTs") under the supervision of Maryland licensed and registered veterinarians. The SBVME does not oppose allowing RVTs administering rabies vaccines for animal control facilities to operate under the indirect supervision of a veterinarian, but believes that direct supervision should still be required for RVTs working in licensed veterinary facilities.
 - HB325 may need to be further amended to use defined terms within the Health and Agricultural Articles.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m..