

HOUSE No. 4635

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Ten

An Act to provide for the safe care and treatment of animals..

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Section 1: There shall be a special commission to consider the regulation and licensure of
2 veterinary technicians and veterinary assistants in the Commonwealth. The commission shall
3 consist of the following members: The Chairman of the Commonwealth’s Board of
4 Registration in Veterinary Medicine or his designee, who shall serve as chair of the commission;
5 the Commissioner of the Department of Agricultural Resources or his designee; the
6 Undersecretary of the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation or his designee; two
7 representatives of the Massachusetts Veterinary Technical Association; and two representatives
8 of the Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association.

9 Section 2: The Commission shall broadly consider whether changes should be
10 recommended, either through statute or regulation, in the education, regulation, licensure,
11 supervision or oversight of veterinary technicians and veterinary assistants. Specifically, the
12 commission shall:

13 a) consider whether the current regulation of Assistants and Veterinary Technicians under
14 256 CMR 8.00: M.G.L. c.112 Sections 54 and 58 is adequate to protect the health and safety of
15 animals under veterinary care;

16 b) consider whether and how to encourage greater professional knowledge and skill
17 levels for veterinary assistants and/or technicians;

18 c) address the impact of recent changes in the Veterinary Technician Technical
19 Examination requirements

20 d) consider issues relative to supervision, experience, education, and training of
21 veterinary assistants and technicians

22 3) take into account the special requirements of veterinary technical assistants and
23 technicians working for the Department of Agriculture

24 Section 3: The commission shall make a report, including recommendations for changes
25 to statute or regulation, to the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government and
26 the Joint Committee on Licensure and Consumer Protection by May 1, 2011.