

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

H

1

HOUSE BILL 1741*

Short Title: Animal Euthanasia Technicians. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Ross; M. Alexander, Carney, and Hughes.

Referred to: Judiciary I, if favorable, Finance.

May 18, 2010

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO REGISTER ANIMAL SHELTERS UNDER THE NORTH CAROLINA CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT FOR THE LIMITED PURPOSE OF OBTAINING, POSSESSING, AND USING DRUGS FOR ANIMAL EUTHANASIA, TO AUTHORIZE CERTIFIED EUTHANASIA TECHNICIANS TO ADMINISTER THESE DRUGS TO EUTHANIZE DOGS AND CATS ON THE PREMISES OF THE ANIMAL SHELTER, AND TO GIVE THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES EXPLICIT AUTHORIZATION TO REJECT CERTIFICATION OF OR TO DECERTIFY A EUTHANASIA TECHNICIAN FOR CERTAIN FELONY CONVICTIONS, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GENERAL STATUTES COMMISSION.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 90-101 reads as rewritten:

"§ 90-101. Annual registration and fee to engage in listed activities with controlled substances; effect of registration; exceptions; waiver; inspection.

(a) Every person who manufactures, distributes, dispenses, or conducts research with any controlled substance within this State or who proposes to engage in any of these activities shall annually register with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, in accordance with rules adopted by the Commission, and shall pay the registration fee set by the Commission for the category to which the applicant belongs. An applicant for registration shall file an application for registration with the Department of Health and Human Services and submit the required fee with the application. The categories of applicants and the maximum fee for each category are as follows:

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>MAXIMUM FEE</u>
Clinic	\$150.00
<u>Animal Shelter</u>	<u>150.00</u>
Hospital	350.00
Nursing Home	150.00
Teaching Institution	150.00
Researcher	150.00
Analytical Laboratory	150.00
Dog Handler	150.00
Distributor	600.00
Manufacturer	700.00

(a1) Any physician who prescribes or dispenses Buprenorphine for the treatment of opiate dependence shall annually register with the Department, in accordance with rules



1 adopted by the Commission. In the application for registration under this subsection, the
2 applicant shall document plans to ensure that patients are directly engaged or referred to a
3 qualified provider to receive counseling and case management, as appropriate, and shall
4 acknowledge the application of federal confidentiality regulations to patient information.
5 Applicant plans for referral to appropriate services shall be a written document and may include
6 either an executed memorandum of agreement, contractual arrangement, or linkage agreement
7 with qualified providers. The Department shall provide assistance upon request to physicians
8 registered under this subsection to identify and establish linkages with qualified providers of
9 counseling and case management. The Department shall provide the North Carolina Medical
10 Board with any evidence of noncompliance with this subsection by a qualified physician prior
11 to taking action to rescind the physician's registration to prescribe or dispense Buprenorphine
12 for the treatment of opiate dependency.

13 (a2) An animal shelter may register under this section for the limited purpose of
14 obtaining, possessing, and using sodium pentobarbital and other drugs approved by the
15 Department in consultation with the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association for the
16 euthanasia of animals lawfully held by the animal shelter. An animal shelter registered under
17 this section shall also register with the federal Drug Enforcement Agency under the federal
18 Controlled Substances Act. An animal shelter's acquisition of sodium pentobarbital and other
19 approved drugs for use in the euthanizing of animals shall be made only by the shelter's
20 manager or chief operating officer or by a licensed veterinarian.

21 A person certified by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to administer
22 euthanasia by injection is authorized to possess and administer sodium pentobarbital and other
23 approved euthanasia drugs for the purposes of euthanizing domestic dogs (Canis familiaris) and
24 cats (Felis domestica) lawfully held by an animal shelter. Possession and administration of
25 sodium pentobarbital and other approved drugs for use in the euthanizing of animals by a
26 certified euthanasia technician shall be limited to the premises of the animal shelter.

27 For purposes of this section, "animal shelter" means an animal shelter registered under
28 Article 3 of Chapter 19A of the General Statutes and owned, operated, or maintained by a unit
29 of local government or under contract with a unit of local government for the purpose of
30 housing or containing seized, stray, homeless, quarantined, abandoned, or unwanted animals.

31 (b) Persons registered by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
32 under this Article (including research facilities) to manufacture, distribute, dispense or conduct
33 research with controlled substances may possess, manufacture, distribute, dispense or conduct
34 research with those substances to the extent authorized by their registration and in conformity
35 with the other provisions of this Article.

36 (c) The following persons shall not be required to register and may lawfully possess
37 controlled substances under the provisions of this Article:

- 38 (1) An agent, or an employee thereof, of any registered manufacturer,
39 distributor, or dispenser of any controlled substance if such agent is acting in
40 the usual course of his business or employment;
- 41 (2) The State courier service operated by the Department of Administration, a
42 common or contract carrier, or a public warehouseman, or an employee
43 thereof, whose possession of any controlled substance is in the usual course
44 of his business or employment;
- 45 (3) An ultimate user or a person in possession of any controlled substance
46 pursuant to a lawful order of a practitioner;
- 47 (4) Repealed by Session Laws 1977, c. 891, s. 4.
- 48 (5) Any law-enforcement officer acting within the course and scope of official
49 duties, or any person employed in an official capacity by, or acting as an
50 agent of, any law-enforcement agency or other agency charged with

1 enforcing the provisions of this Article when acting within the course and
2 scope of official duties; and

3 (6) A practitioner, as defined in G.S. 90-87(22)a., who is required to be licensed
4 in North Carolina by his respective licensing board.

5 (d) The Commission may, by rule, waive the requirement for registration of certain
6 classes of manufacturers, distributors, or dispensers if it finds it consistent with the public
7 health and safety.

8 (e) A separate registration shall be required at each principal place of business, research
9 or professional practice where the registrant manufactures, distributes, dispenses or uses
10 controlled substances.

11 (f) The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services is authorized to
12 inspect the establishment of a registrant, applicant for registration, or practitioner in accordance
13 with rules adopted by the Commission.

14 (g) Practitioners licensed in North Carolina by their respective licensing boards may
15 possess, dispense or administer controlled substances to the extent authorized by law and by
16 their boards.

17 (h) A physician licensed by the North Carolina Medical Board pursuant to Article 1 of
18 this Chapter may possess, dispense or administer tetrahydrocannabinols in duly constituted
19 pharmaceutical form for human administration for treatment purposes pursuant to rules adopted
20 by the Commission.

21 (i) A physician licensed by the North Carolina Medical Board pursuant to Article 1 of
22 this Chapter may dispense or administer Dronabinol or Nabilone as scheduled in G.S. 90-90(5)
23 only as an antiemetic agent in cancer chemotherapy."

24 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 19A-24(b) reads as rewritten:

25 "(b) In addition to rules on the euthanasia of animals adopted pursuant to subdivision (5)
26 of subsection (a) of this section, the Board of Agriculture ~~may adopt rules on the euthanasia of~~
27 ~~animals for:~~ shall adopt rules for the certification of euthanasia technicians. The rules may
28 provide for:

- 29 (1) Written and practical examinations for persons who perform euthanasia.
30 (2) Issuance of certification to persons who have successfully completed both
31 training and examinations to become a euthanasia technician.
32 (3) Recertification of euthanasia technicians on a periodic basis.
33 (4) Standards and procedures for the approval of persons who conduct training
34 of euthanasia technicians.
35 (5) Approval of materials for use in euthanasia technician training.
36 (6) Minimum certification criteria for persons seeking to become euthanasia
37 technicians including, but not limited to: age; previous related experience;
38 criminal record; and other qualifications that are related to an applicant's
39 fitness to perform euthanasia.
40 (7) Denial, suspension, or revocation of certification of euthanasia technicians
41 ~~who either violate who:~~
42 a. Violate any provision of the Animal Welfare Act pursuant to Article
43 3 of Chapter 19A of the General Statutes or otherwise this Article or
44 rules adopted pursuant to this Article;
45 b. Have been convicted of or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere
46 to:
47 1. Any felony;
48 2. Any misdemeanor or infraction involving animal abuse or
49 neglect; or

1 3. Any other offense related to animal euthanasia, the duties or
2 responsibilities of a euthanasia technician, or a euthanasia
3 technician's fitness for certification;

4 c. Make any false statement, give false information, or omit material
5 information in connection with an application for certification or for
6 renewal or reinstatement of certification as a euthanasia technician;
7 or

8 d. Otherwise are or become ineligible for certification.

9 (8) Provision of the names of persons who perform euthanasia at animal shelters
10 and for the animal shelter to notify the Department when those persons are
11 no longer affiliated, employed, or serving as a volunteer with the shelter.

12 (9) Certified euthanasia technicians to notify the Department when they are no
13 longer employed by or are serving as a volunteer at an animal shelter.

14 (10) The duties, responsibilities, and standards of conduct for certified euthanasia
15 technicians."

16 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 19A-24 is amended by adding two new subsections to read:

17 "(c) Regardless of the extent to which the Board exercises its authority under subsection
18 (b) of this section, the Department may deny, revoke, or suspend the certification of a
19 euthanasia technician who has been convicted of or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere
20 to a felony involving the illegal use, possession, sale, manufacture, distribution, or
21 transportation of a controlled substance, drug, or narcotic.

22 (d) The Department of Justice may provide a criminal record check to the Department
23 for a person who has applied for a new or renewal certification as a euthanasia technician. The
24 Department shall provide the Department of Justice any additional information required by the
25 Department of Justice and a form signed by the applicant consenting to the check of the
26 criminal record. The Department shall keep all information pursuant to this subsection
27 privileged, in accordance with applicable State law and federal guidelines, and the information
28 shall be confidential and shall not be a public record under Chapter 132 of the General Statutes.
29 The Department of Justice may charge each applicant a fee for conducting the checks of
30 criminal history records authorized by this subsection."

31 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2010.