



Board of Veterinary Examiners Special Meeting

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
February 11th, 2026, at 9:00 AM AKST via Zoom

These minutes were approved by the Board of Veterinary Examiners via OnBoard on February 27th, 2026.

Members Present: : Denise Albert, DVM; Hal Geiger, PhD; Robert Gerlach, VMD; Sarah Johnson, DVM; Ciara Vollaro, DVM.

Staff Present: Rachel Billiet, Program Coordinator 1; Keri Mell, Occupational Licensing Examiner 3.

Call to Order

Attendance

Members Present: Denise Albert, DVM; Hal Geiger, PhD; Robert Gerlach, VMD; Sarah Johnson, DVM; Ciara Vollaro DVM.

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM by Chair Dr. Gerlach and a quorum was established; he then read the board's mission statement onto the record. When asked by staff if any board members had any conflicts of interest to declare, none were heard.

Review and Approve Agenda

Motion:

RESOLVED to APPROVE the agenda as written.

Motion moved by Dr. Geiger and motion seconded by Dr. Johnson.

The motion passed unanimously.

AO 360

Keri Mell, Occupational Licensing Examiner 3, presented the board with the AO 360 Reform Plan worksheet with all the changes the board has been working on. Ms. Mell discussed the Decisional Document Tab first and the board agreed that they answered the public comments regarding 12 AAC 68.041 Courtesy Licenses. The board agreed to adopt a change to expand 12AAC 68.041(c) to be valid for up to 90 consecutive days.

The board changed the explanation of intended changes in 12AAC 68.010(a)(8) from "removes a requirement that doesn't have an established method of meeting in regulation and therefore gives the board no legal authority to enforce" to "removes redundant language".

The board noted 12 AAC 68.041(b)1 there is remove “on a form provided by the department” but also needs to remove “all of the fees and”. This would make another reduction so it will go from -1 to -2.

The board noted 12 AAC 68.043(b)1 needed to be added to the reform plan. It will remove “on a department form” and add another regulation reduction.

The board agreed in 12 AAC 68.215(a)(3) that “and allowing another veterinarian to treat a patient when the established veterinarian is not available” needs to be deleted from the explanation of intended changes.

The board changed in 12 AAC 68.300 (a)(2) explanation of intended changes from “adds language that improves licensure accessibility” to “adds language that improves technician accessibility”.

The board had a little confusion about the numbering of the medical records regulations. Program Coordinator 1, Rachel Billiet explained that the information has not been changed, just the numbering and lettering of the intended regulations to align with current regulation formatting. Ms. Billiet said she will create it in a document and send it to the board members during the board meeting.

The board changed the summary of the intended changes in 12 AAC 68.910(g) to “Records must be released in 5 days instead of 30 days after a written request by owner”.

The board changed the explanation of intent and summary of the intended changes in 12 AAC 68.910(h)(2) to add “without owners’ consent”.

The board had questions about 12 AAC 68.300 if they can do a general ask for a regulation change. Ms. Billiet contacted Deputy Director Glenn Saviors and was given the advice that the board can add 12 AAC 68.300 and state in the summary of the intended changes wording along the lines of “update and modernize veterinary technician scope of practice to better align with national standards”. The board agreed with this and added “Language needs to be updated to align with national standards” in the explanation of intent.

The board changed the explanation of intended changes 12 AAC 68.500(b)(3) from “Improves barrier to licensure” to “Improves access to licensure”.

Motion:

RESOLVED to APPROVE the edited AO 360 Reform Plan for the Board of Veterinary Examiners.

Motion moved by Dr Albert and motion seconded by Dr. Vollaro.

The motion passed unanimously via roll call vote. Dr. Vollaro yes. Dr. Albert yes. Dr. Gerlach yes. Dr. Geiger yes. Dr. Johnson yes.

Update on Statute Changes for Legislatures

Dr. Albert did not have any more updates on statute changes the board is asking for this legislative season. Dr. Albert is still waiting to hear back from Lizzie Kubitz (staff to Senator Matt Claman) if they can put an amendment to HB158/SB145 asking for a Veterinarian Technician seat on their board to be written into statute.

Dr. Geiger left the meeting and a quorum was maintained.

Dr. Albert also asked the chair if the board could discuss a document that came to them from the National Board of Medical Examiners instead of from AAVSB. The chair agreed.

Dr. Albert wanted to make sure the board knew that applicants attest that their NAVLE scores are sent directly from VIVA/AAVSB, but the recent report the board saw was from the National Board of Medical examiners (NBME). Ms. Mell explained she logged in to the NBME and downloaded the score herself, it did not come from the applicant directly. Ms. Mell said she would email AAVSB and ask why she was able to get them from NBME and email the applicant asking for his exam scores to be sent directly from AAVSB.

Adjourn

Motion:

RESOLVED to APPROVE adjourning the February 11, 2026, meeting of the Board of Veterinary Examiners.

Motion moved by Dr. Albert and motion seconded by Dr. Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

The board went off the record at 10:25am.