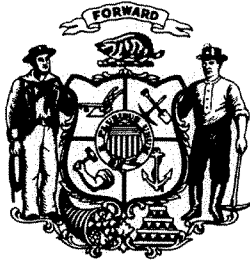


Assembly Bill 165... relating to: Continuing Education for Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians and granting rule making authority

<p>BILL SPONSORS</p>	<p>Introduced by Senators Schultz, Kedzie, Stepp, Risser, Hansen, M. Meyer and Roessler.</p> <p>Cosponsored by Representative Hines.</p>
<p>BILL HISTORY</p>	<p>Assembly Bill 165 was introduced in the Assembly on 03/18/03 and referred to the Assembly Committee on Agriculture. A public hearing was held on 04/03/03. The Committee held an executive session on 05/15/03. The Assembly Agriculture Committee recommended passage 13-0. AB 165 was before the Assembly on 10/02/03 where it was passed on a roll call vote of 58 Ayes and 38 Noes. On 10/28/03, AB 165 was received by the Senate and referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Financial Institutions and Insurance. A public hearing was held on 10/30/03, the Senate Committee recommended concurrence on 11/04/03 on a vote of 5-0.</p>
<p>LRB ANALYSIS</p>	<p>Current Law: The Veterinary Examining Board (board) issues licenses to Veterinarians and certifications to veterinary technicians, which must be renewed every two years. The board is required to promulgate rules requiring continuing education to ensure that veterinarians and veterinary technicians are competent in using, handling, distributing, and disposing of pesticides.</p> <p>Proposed Changes: This bill requires the board to promulgate continuing education rules to ensure competency in practicing veterinary medicine, including, but not limited to, competency in using, handling, distributing, and disposing of pesticides. In addition, with certain exceptions, the bill requires an applicant who applies to renew a veterinary license or veterinary technician certification to certify that he or she has completed continuing education. Veterinarians must complete 30 hours of continuing education every two years and veterinary technicians must complete 15 hours every two years. The continuing education requirements do not apply the first time that a veterinarian or veterinary technician applies to renew his or her license or certification. In addition, the board may waive the requirements if exceptional circumstances, such as prolonged illness or disability, prevent a veterinarian or veterinary technician from meeting the requirements. Also, if any complaint is made against a veterinarian or veterinary technician, the bill allows the board to require the veterinarian or veterinary technician to submit proof that he or she has completed continuing education during the preceding two-year licensure or certification period.</p> <p>Major Impact: None</p>
<p>FISCAL EFFECT</p>	<p>Increased cost, which may be absorbed within the agencies budget.</p>
<p>SUPPORT</p>	<p>The following person/people appeared in favor of this bill: (1) Senator Dale Schultz, (2) Rep. J.A. Doc Hines, (3) Dr. Pete MacWilliams, WI Vet. Med Assn. (4) Rachel Rothschild, UW Madison School of Vet Medicine</p> <p>The following person/people registered in favor of this bill: (1) Leslie Grendahl, WI Vet Med. Assn. (2) Teri Raffel. WI Vet Tech. Assn.</p>

	<p>No one registered their support for the bill with the State Ethics Board, but did not testify or register at the public hearing.</p> <p>The following organization(s) registered their intention to lobby on SB__ but did not take a position on the bill: (1) Dairy Business Association</p>
OPPOSITION	<p>No person/people appeared in opposition to this bill:</p> <p>No person/people registered in opposition to this bill:</p> <p>No one registered opposition for the bill with the State Ethics Board, but did not testify or register at the public hearing.</p>
CONTACT	<p>John O'Brien, Committee Clerk, Sen. Ag. Financial Institutions and Insurance 266-0703</p>
DATE	<p>November 10, 2003</p>



**Senate Committee on Agriculture, Financial Institutions
and Insurance**

Room 18 South State Capitol, PO Box 7882, Madison WI 53707-7882
(608) 266-0703

Senator Dale W. Schultz, Chairman
Committee Clerk, John O'Brien

COMMITTEE BALLOT

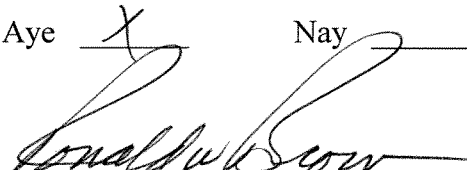
Senator Ron Brown
Room # 104 South
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707-7882

From;
Senator Dale Schultz, Chairman

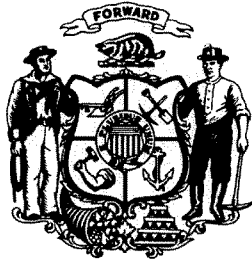
Dear Senator Brown,

On Thursday October 30th, 2003 our committee held a public hearing on Assembly Bill 165, An Act to repeal 453.06 (4); to renumber and amend 453.06 (2); to amend 453.03 (2); and to create 453.062 of the statutes; relating to: continuing education for veterinarians and veterinary technicians and granting rule-making authority.

Based on the testimony received by the committee during the public hearing, the Chair respectfully requests your vote on a motion of passage of ~~Senate~~ ^{Assembly} Bill 185.

Aye Nay

State Senator Ron Brown

11/04/03
Date



**Senate Committee on Agriculture, Financial Institutions
and Insurance**

Room 18 South State Capitol, PO Box 7882, Madison WI 53707-7882
(608) 266-0703

Senator Dale W. Schultz, Chairman
Committee Clerk, John O'Brien

COMMITTEE BALLOT

Senator Julie Lassa
Room 3 South
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707-7882

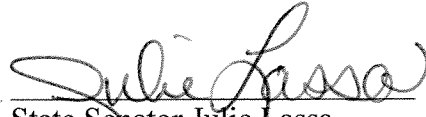
From;
Senator Dale Schultz, Chairman

Dear Senator Lassa,

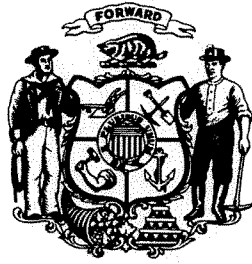
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Based on the testimony received by the committee during the public hearing, the Chair respectfully requests your vote on a motion of passage of ^{Assembly} Senate Bill 165.

Aye X Nay


State Senator Julie Lassa

11/4/03
Date



**Senate Committee on Agriculture, Financial Institutions
and Insurance**

Room 18 South State Capitol, PO Box 7882, Madison WI 53707-7882
(608) 266-0703

Senator Dale W. Schultz, Chairman

Committee Clerk. John O'Brien

COMMITTEE BALLOT

Senator Dave Hansen
Room # 319 South
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707-7882

From;
Senator Dale Schultz, Chairman

Dear Senator Hansen,

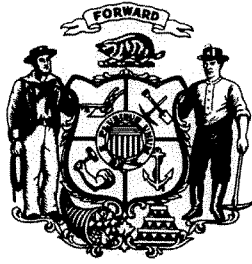
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Based on the testimony received by the committee during the public hearing, the Chair respectfully requests your vote on a motion of passage of ~~Senate~~ ^{Assembly} Bill 165.

Aye _____ Nay _____


State Senator Dave Hansen

11/3/03
Date



**Senate Committee on Agriculture, Financial Institutions
and Insurance**

Room 18 South State Capitol, PO Box 7882, Madison WI 53707-7882
(608) 266-0703

Senator Dale W. Schultz, Chairman
Committee Clerk, John O'Brien

COMMITTEE BALLOT

Senator Neal Kedzie
Room # 313 South
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707-7882

From;
Senator Dale Schultz, Chairman

Dear Senator Kedzie,

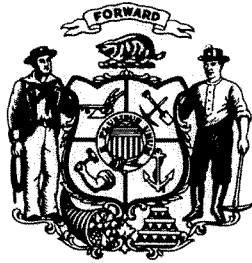
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Based on the testimony received by the committee during the public hearing, the Chair respectfully requests your vote on a motion of passage of ~~Senate~~ ^{Assembly} Bill 165.

Aye _____ Nay _____


State Senator Neal Kedzie

11 / 3 / 03
Date



**Senate Committee on Agriculture, Financial Institutions
and Insurance**

Room 18 South State Capitol, PO Box 7882, Madison WI 53707-7882
(608) 266-0703

Senator Dale W. Schultz, Chairman
Committee Clerk, John O'Brien

COMMITTEE BALLOT

Senator Dale Schultz
Room # 18 South
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707-7882

From;
Senator Dale Schultz, Chairman

Dear Senator Schultz,

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Based on the testimony received by the committee during the public hearing, the Chair respectfully requests your vote on a motion of passage of ~~Senate~~ ^{Assembly} Bill 165.

Aye Nay

Dale W. Schultz
State Senator Dale Schultz

11/03/03
Date



THE UNIVERSITY
of
WISCONSIN
MADISON

Office of the Dean
2015 Linden Drive West
Madison, WI 53706-1102
Phone: 608/263-6716
Fax: 608/265-6748

2003 Assembly Bill 165

Senate Committee on Agriculture, Financial Institutions and Insurance

Hearing Date: October 30, 2003

Testimony of Rachel C. Rothschild, Assistant Dean

School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Thank you Senator Schultz and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Financial Institutions and Insurance. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in favor of AB 165, which mandates continuing education for veterinarians and certified veterinary technicians. My name is Rachel Rothschild. I am an Assistant Dean at the UW-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine and serve as the school's liaison with the Veterinary Examining Board on matters related to licensed veterinarians and veterinary technicians employed by the school. My goal today is to provide you information about the impact of AB 165 on the school's continuing education (CE) programs and on school faculty and staff who are licensed veterinarians and certified technicians and will need to fulfill the CE requirement if AB 165 becomes law.

Predictably, the school promotes life-long learning. Providing continuing education for graduate veterinarians is one element of the mission of the School of Veterinary Medicine. It is a logical extension of the school's primary goals, which are to provide excellent veterinary medical education, to enhance the health and welfare of animals and people, and to improve economic well-being at the state, national and international levels. Quality continuing education programs for veterinary professionals provide a benefit to our graduates and other professionals from within and outside Wisconsin. Quality CE indirectly benefits the consumers of veterinary services, be they farmers, livestock producers or pet owners.

Each year for the past several years, well over 600 veterinarians have attended continuing education programs sponsored solely or jointly by the School of Veterinary Medicine. This represents the school's involvement in approximately ten separate programs each year. Given other commitments of faculty and staff at the school, this is believed to be an appropriate level of school-sponsored CE. We do not presently have any plans to offer more CE programs, although we can accommodate increased attendance at our programs that have a lecture format. In summary, at this time we do not believe that mandated CE for veterinarians will significantly change how we program CE events at the school.

Turning to another issue, which is the effect of AB 165 on our licensed and certified faculty and staff - we will work with the Veterinary Examining Board during the rule making process to ensure that the types of professional development faculty and staff already engage will meet their requirement to obtain CE. Faculty members from the school are often the presenters of CE at state, national and international meetings. They attend meetings sponsored by veterinary specialty groups and commercial enterprises. CE is available through distance education. The Veterinary Examining Board will have an opportunity to write forward-thinking rules that

**Mandatory Continuing Education Bill
AB 165 Testimony
Oct. 30, 2003
Teri Raffel, CVT, Wisconsin Veterinary Technician Association**

Good morning Committee members and guests. My name is Teri Raffel and I am a Certified Veterinary Technician in the State of Wisconsin. I represent the Wisconsin Veterinary Technician Association as the Legislative Committee Chair. Due to unforeseen events I am unable to appear before you in person, but hope you accept this testimony in support of AB 165.

As members of the veterinary profession, veterinary technicians are involved on a daily basis with all aspects of veterinary medicine and patient care. Whether collecting or preparing samples for laboratory evaluation, taking radiographs, anesthetizing and preparing a patient for surgery or performing a dental prophylaxis (cleaning), or any one of a hundred other tasks, our jobs are widely varied. Our clients deserve to have well educated professionals caring for their pets. As the primary care giver, the CVT has the ethical responsibility to provide the best quality care available. The patient care level for which the veterinary technician is responsible makes it evident that maintaining a certain standard of care, through knowledge and education, is imperative.

As an educator of adult students, my reality is that learning is a lifelong experience. It is unrealistic to think that anyone leaving high school or college has all the knowledge that they will need for the rest of their life. Our profession is no different. The education received in college to earn our degree is invaluable, but certainly not all-inclusive. The medical field is constantly changing and we must keep up with those changes for the safety of our patients and the trust of our clients.

In this precarious world we now live in, the threat of bioterrorism is very real. It is

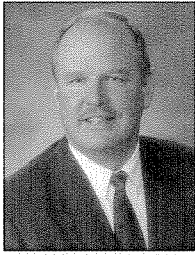
not unrealistic to believe that the technician may be the first person in contact with an ill animal or talking on the phone to the owner of an ill animal. The need for technicians to maintain their knowledge of current information is very important.

Of the 42 states that credential veterinary technicians, all but 12 states have mandatory continuing education requirements. The hours required vary from 4 hrs / year to 30 hours / 3 years. By enacting this legislation, we would be following the obvious national trend of requiring veterinary technicians to pursue continuing education.

The WVTA wishes to be an active participant in the writing of the Rules, which will regulate this legislation. The WVTA is committed to the completion of this project. It is our goal to make the Rules workable and purposeful for the CVTs of Wisconsin without imposing any further workload on the Department of Regulation and Licensing. We believe through cooperative efforts this can be accomplished.

As an association we have undertaken many legislative issues including a nomenclature change from animal technician to the current veterinary technician and better defining the Practice Act to distinguish between credentialed veterinary technicians and unlicensed assistants. Most recently we were able to secure a seat for a Certified Veterinary Technician on the Veterinary Examining Board of the Department of Regulation and Licensing. The passage of this legislation would be one more step on our journey in becoming recognized as professionals in the field of veterinary medicine.

Thank you for your time and attention.



DALE W. SCHULTZ
Wisconsin State Senator



October 30, 2003

Assembly Bill 165, Continuing Education for Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians.

Veterinarians are Wisconsin's foot soldiers in the monitoring and eradication of known and unknown diseases of livestock and fish in Wisconsin. Just this past year, we have seen reports of (BSE) Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, commonly known as mad cow disease in Alberta, Canada, new diseases in wild fish species and monkey pox which had been found in pet prairie dogs and may be transmitted to some other mammals and rodents. A continuing education requirement for veterinarians is one of the ways we can be certain that our state's licensed veterinarians are up to speed on new issues related to animal health in our state, as well as new techniques to deal with these problems.

Assembly Bill 165 requires the board to promulgate continuing education rules to ensure competency in practicing veterinary medicine, including, but not limited to, competency in using, handling, distributing, and disposing of pesticides. In addition, with certain exceptions, the bill requires an applicant who applies to renew a veterinary license or veterinary technician certification to certify that he or she has completed continuing education.

Under this bill, veterinarians must complete 30 hours of continuing education every two years and veterinary technicians must complete 15 hours every two years. The continuing education requirements do not apply the first time that a veterinarian or veterinary technician applies to renew his or her license or certification. In addition, the board may waive the requirements if exceptional circumstances, such as prolonged illness or disability, prevent a veterinarian or veterinary technician from meeting the requirements. Also, if any complaint is made against a veterinarian or veterinary technician, the bill allows the board to require the veterinarian or veterinary technician to submit proof that he or she has completed continuing education during the preceding two-year licensure or certification period.



301 North Broom Street Madison, WI 53703 ■ (608) 257-3665 ■ fax (608) 257-8989 ■ wvma@wvma.org

Randy J. Schuett, DVM
President

Margaret J. Terhar, DVM
President Elect

Vic L. Eggleston, DVM
Past President

Leslie G. Grendahl
Executive Director

Senate Committee Agriculture, Financial Institutions and Insurance

Testimony by The Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association

In support of Assembly Bill 165 October 30, 2003

Thank you Chairperson Schultz, and members of the committee for allowing me to speak. My name is Peter MacWilliams. I am representing the Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association as the chairperson of its Legislative Committee and its past president.

The WVMA represents approximately 90 percent of Wisconsin's licensed veterinarians. We ask for your support of Assembly Bill 165 in order to establish mandatory continuing education for Wisconsin veterinarians and certified veterinary technicians. This bill was submitted last session and passed unanimously by voice vote in the Assembly but failed to make the Senate calendar prior to adjournment.

The WVMA membership values continuing education as a way to elevate the profession and enhance the quality of service to our clients. Though most veterinarians keep up with their profession, they are not required to do so. From recent surveys, the majority of our members typically take 32 or more hours of continuing education in a two-year cycle without any requirements. AB 165 would require 30 hours every two years. This is average among the states that require mandatory continuing education for veterinarians. If we asked pet owners and the farmers if they thought their veterinarian should be required to keep up with their profession, all of them would answer yes.

We live in a much smaller and different world today. The threats of bioterrorism, the importation of foreign animal diseases, and the transmission of infectious disease between animals and people are very real. Veterinarians and veterinary technicians play an integral role in protecting the public, our companion animals, our food supply, and our access to markets for trade in animals and animal products. It is clearly time to pass this legislation.

At these difficult fiscal times, we are pleased that passage of AB 165 would carry no financial burden for the Department of Regulation and Licensing other than modification of the licensing renewal form to accommodate the check off.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

District 1 - Richard A. Weaver, DVM ■ District 2 - David A. Rhoda, DVM ■ District 3 - Philip C. Johnson, DVM ■ District 4 - Phillip L. Pearson, DVM
District 5 - Jeffery B. Loomans, DVM ■ District 6 - Heather Curtis, DVM ■ District 7 - Laura G. Johnson, DVM
District 8 - Donald J. Peterson, DVM ■ District 9 - Christopher W. Bleifuss, DVM ■ Treasurer - Thomas H. Howard, DVM
WVMA representative to the WVDL Board - Berwyn J. Cadman, DVM ■ WVDL Director - Robert M. Shull, DVM
AVMA Delegate - René A. Carlson, DVM ■ State Veterinarian - Clarence J. Siroky, DVM
Dean, UW School of Veterinary Medicine - Daryl D. Buss, DVM, PhD ■ Student Representatives - Heidi Benkers and Kristi Orchard

Currently, Wisconsin is one of only seven states that does not require mandatory continuing education. The other six are Connecticut, Hawaii, Michigan, New Jersey, New York and Rhode Island. New York, New Jersey and Rhode Island have bills pending in their legislatures. All of the remaining states are seriously considering legislative changes.

This bill will help protect the confidence the public has in veterinarians particularly if there should be an act of agri-terrorism or onset of a foreign animal disease.

Thank you for taking the time to have this hearing. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Senate Committee Agriculture, Financial Institutions and Insurance

Testimony by
The Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association

**In support of Assembly Bill 165
October 30, 2003**

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This bill will help protect the confidence the public has in veterinarians particularly if there should be an act of agri-terrorism or onset of a foreign animal disease.

Thank you for taking the time to have this hearing. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

**Request for Mandatory Continuing Education for Wisconsin Veterinarians and Certified
Veterinary Technicians
AB 165**

The Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association (WVMA) asks for your support of legislation to establish mandatory continuing education for Wisconsin veterinarians and certified veterinary technicians.

The WVMA membership values continuing education as a way to elevate the profession and enhance the quality of service to the consuming public. Though most veterinarians keep up with their profession, they are not required to do so.

Currently, Wisconsin is one of eight states that do not require mandatory continuing education. The other seven are Connecticut, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York and Rhode Island. Rhode Island has a bill pending in the legislature.

The Department of Regulation and Licensing, the Veterinary Examining Board, the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, the WVMA and the Wisconsin Veterinary Technician Association all support this issue.

- Require the Veterinary Examining Board to promulgate continuing education rules to ensure competency in practicing veterinary medicine.
- Require an applicant who applies to renew a veterinary license or veterinary technician certification to acknowledge completion of continuing education.
- Veterinarians would be required to complete 30 hours of continuing education every two years and veterinary technicians must complete 15 hours every two years.
- The Examining Board could at any time require a veterinarian or veterinary technician to submit evidence of the continuing education programs or courses that he or she has completed during the preceding 2-year licensure or certification period.
- The Examining Board may waive the continuing education requirements if it finds that exceptional circumstances, such as prolonged illness, disability or other similar circumstances, have prevented an applicant from meeting the requirements.
- There would be no fiscal note attached to this bill.

Again, we ask for your support of this legislation. Please contact WVMA Executive Director Leslie Grendahl at (608) 257-3665 if you have any questions or would like additional information.



Office of the Dean
2015 Linden Drive West
Madison, WI 53706-1102
Phone: 608/263-6716
Fax: 608/265-6748

2003 Assembly Bill 165
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Financial Institutions and Insurance
Hearing Date: October 30, 2003
Testimony of Rachel C. Rothschild, Assistant Dean
School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Thank you Senator Schultz and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Financial Institutions and Insurance. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in favor of AB 165, which mandates continuing education for veterinarians and certified veterinary technicians. My name is Rachel Rothschild. I am an Assistant Dean at the UW-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine and serve as the school's liaison with the Veterinary Examining Board on matters related to licensed veterinarians and veterinary technicians employed by the school. My goal today is to provide you information about the impact of AB 165 on the school's continuing education (CE) programs and on school faculty and staff who are licensed veterinarians and certified technicians and will need to fulfill the CE requirement if AB 165 becomes law.

Predictably, the school promotes life-long learning. Providing continuing education for graduate veterinarians is one element of the mission of the School of Veterinary Medicine. It is a logical extension of the school's primary goals, which are to provide excellent veterinary medical education, to enhance the health and welfare of animals and people, and to improve economic well-being at the state, national and international levels. Quality continuing education programs for veterinary professionals provide a benefit to our graduates and other professionals from within and outside Wisconsin. Quality CE indirectly benefits the consumers of veterinary services, be they farmers, livestock producers or pet owners.

Each year for the past several years, well over 600 veterinarians have attended continuing education programs sponsored solely or jointly by the School of Veterinary Medicine. This represents the school's involvement in approximately ten separate programs each year. Given other commitments of faculty and staff at the school, this is believed to be an appropriate level of school-sponsored CE. We do not presently have any plans to offer more CE programs, although we can accommodate increased attendance at our programs that have a lecture format. In summary, at this time we do not believe that mandated CE for veterinarians will significantly change how we program CE events at the school.

Turning to another issue, which is the effect of AB 165 on our licensed and certified faculty and staff - we will work with the Veterinary Examining Board during the rule making process to ensure that the types of professional development faculty and staff already engage will meet their requirement to obtain CE. Faculty members from the school are often the presenters of CE at state, national and international meetings. They attend meetings sponsored by veterinary specialty groups and commercial enterprises. CE is available through distance education. The Veterinary Examining Board will have an opportunity to write forward-thinking rules that

recognize as acceptable CE the great variety of high quality programs available to veterinarians and technicians. We look forward to participating in that process. Individual veterinarians and technicians will be responsible for maintaining records of the CE they attend for reporting or audit purposes. We do not believe that this is burdensome or any reason to oppose mandatory CE.

In conclusion, I speak for the UW- Madison School of Veterinary Medicine in supporting AB 165 because participation in continuing education is praiseworthy, mandating it may well improve the quality of professional services and enhance the reputation of the profession, and we are confident that administrative rules can be developed that will ensure that worthwhile, high quality professional development activities already being undertaken are recognized as acceptable continuing education.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on this matter.