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**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
ACT MEMO**

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| <b>2003 Wisconsin Act 103</b><br>[2003 Assembly Bill 165]   | <b>Continuing Education for<br/>Veterinarians and Veterinary<br/>Technicians</b>  |
| 2003 Acts: <a href="http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/acts/">www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/acts/</a> | Act Memos: <a href="http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/act_memo/act_memo.htm">www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/act_memo/act_memo.htm</a> |

2003 Wisconsin Act 103 requires continuing education for veterinarians and veterinary technicians.

**Background**

Veterinarians and veterinary technicians are subject to regulation by the Veterinary Examining Board. Among its other powers, the Veterinary Examining Board has authority under current statutes to promulgate rules for training and continuing education in order to assure the competency of veterinarians and veterinary technicians in the use, handling, distribution, and disposal of pesticides. The Veterinary Examining Board has promulgated these rules in ch. VE 10, Wis. Adm. Code. The statutes do not authorize the Veterinary Examining Board to promulgate rules establishing additional requirements for continuing education.

**2003 Wisconsin Act 103**

2003 Wisconsin Act 103 adds to the current duties of the Veterinary Examining Board a requirement to promulgate administrative rules requiring training and continuing education to assure competency of veterinarians and veterinary technicians in the practice of veterinary medicine. The existing statutory requirement regarding education in the use, handling, distribution, and disposal of pesticides is retained. Act 103 requires 30 hours of continuing education for veterinarians and 15 hours of continuing education for veterinary technicians during each two-year certification period, and makes the attendance at such courses a requirement for recertification. The Act exempts from the continuing education requirement the first two-year renewal after the initial issuance of a license or certification and allows the Veterinary Examining Board to waive the requirements of continuing education under exceptional personal circumstances such as prolonged illness or disability that prevents an applicant from meeting the requirements.

***Effective Date:*** December 30, 2003.

***Prepared by:*** Mark C. Patronsky, Senior Staff Attorney

December 30, 2003

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information,  
consult the text of the law and related legislative documents.

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