

Comparison of Current Minnesota Statutes Chapter 156 vs. Revisor’s Draft (2026)

1. Definitions (156.001)

Major expansions

The draft dramatically expands the definitions section. Current law contains ~15 definitions; the draft adds more than a dozen new ones.

Key changes

Topic	Current Statute	Revisor’s Draft
Animal	“Animal does not include poultry.”	Expanded to “nonhuman mammal, bird, fish, or reptile.”
Client	Defined only in drug section (156.16).	Added to 156.001 as a standalone definition.
Consent	Not defined.	New definition including express and implied consent.
Consulting	Not defined.	New definition allowing advice from any person with relevant expertise.
Dispensing	Defined only in drug section.	Expanded definition in 156.001 covering OTC, prescription, and extra-label drugs.
Emergency stabilization	Not defined.	New definition describing life-saving care.
Surgery	Defined indirectly as “operation.”	New, clearer definition: structural alteration via incision or tissue destruction.
Telemedicine / Triage	Not defined.	New definitions establishing legal framework for remote care.
Veterinary medical facility	Not defined.	New definition clarifying what counts as a facility.

Topic	Current Statute	Revisor's Draft
Veterinary specialist / technician specialist / technologist	Not defined.	New credential-based definitions.
Licensee	Only veterinarians.	Expanded to include veterinary technicians.

Overall: The draft modernizes the chapter by adding terminology needed for telemedicine, technician practice, drug handling, and facility regulation.

2. Board of Veterinary Medicine (156.01)

Board composition

Current	Draft
7 members: 5 veterinarians, 2 public members.	9 members: 5 veterinarians, 2 public members, 1 veterinary technician, 1 veterinarian or technician.

Board authority

The draft moves and expands board powers:

- Adds a new subdivision listing duties (rulemaking, examinations, meetings).
- Clarifies meeting duration limits.
- Removes outdated language about posting exam notices in physical locations.

3. Licensure for Veterinarians (156.02–156.04)

Application requirements

The draft:

- Modernizes language.
- Allows transcripts as proof of graduation.
- Removes requirement for three non-veterinarian affidavits.
- Retains two veterinarian affidavits only for certain pathways.

- Clarifies foreign graduate requirements (ECFVG/PAVE).
- Adds explicit authority for online jurisprudence exams.

Issuance of license

Substantially unchanged except for modernization of language.

4. License Renewal & Reinstatement (156.07–156.071)

Renewal

- Draft adds explicit authority for inactive licenses for both veterinarians and technicians.
- Modernizes language but keeps the same structure.

Reinstatement

- Draft clarifies that applicants must meet **current** initial licensure requirements if more than five years have passed.
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5. Nonresident Veterinarian Licensure (156.072)

Major restructuring

The draft:

- Replaces affidavit-based character references with proof of an unrestricted license in good standing.
- Adds requirement for verification from all jurisdictions in the past 10 years.
- Allows VIVA (Veterinary Information Verification Agency) certification.
- Adds clarity on examination waivers.

This is a modernization consistent with other states.

6. Equine Teeth Floating (156.075)

Changes

- Adds more detailed definitions of floating procedures.

- Adds sedation-related supervision requirements.
 - Adds remote supervision options.
 - Moves effective date to 2027.
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7. Supervision of Unlicensed Employees (156.076)

Changes

- Adds livestock management practices under remote supervision.
 - Adds emergency exception allowing lifesaving aid without a veterinarian present.
 - Clarifies that generalized nursing tasks may occur when a veterinarian is off-site.
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8. Veterinary Technicians (156.077)

Major expansion

The draft adds:

- Pharmaceutical duties.
- Recordkeeping requirements.
- Humane care obligations.
- Continuing education requirements (16 hours biennially).
- Clearer application requirements.
- New definitions for technologists and technician specialists.

This is one of the most significant expansions in the chapter.

9. Nonresident Technician Licensure (156.078)

Changes

- Adds criminal background check requirement.
- Adds jurisprudence exam requirement.
- Adds VIVA verification option.

- Requires proof of unrestricted license.
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10. Disciplinary Authority (156.081)

Major expansion

The draft:

- Adds a **separate list of causes** for disciplining veterinary technicians.
- Expands grounds for discipline for veterinarians (e.g., conflict of interest, unauthorized treatment, failure to provide records).
- Adds explicit authority to discipline for violating board orders or state/federal orders.
- Adds provisions related to controlled substances and product promotion.

This section becomes far more detailed and enforceable.

11. Practice of Veterinary Medicine (156.12)

Substantial rewrite

The draft:

- Expands the definition of practice to include behavioral, dental, and surgical procedures.
- Adds reproductive management procedures.
- Adds telemedicine and telerriage exceptions.
- Adds complementary/alternative therapy exclusions (acupuncture, chiropractic, nutraceuticals, etc.).
- Adds a requirement that VCPR must be established **before** practicing, except for emergency stabilization or telerriage.
- Expands the list of authorized activities (students, researchers, owners, government employees, pharmacists, trainers, emergency responders, etc.).
- Adds provisions for out-of-state veterinarians and technicians during disasters.

This is one of the most significant modernization changes in the draft.

12. Facility Inspection (156.121)

Changes

- Adds authority to inspect drug-holding premises.
 - Adds authority to collect samples.
 - Expands inspection scope beyond complaint-based inspections.
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13. Drug-Related Definitions and Requirements (156.16–156.20)

Key changes

- **Food-producing animal** definition expanded to include any animal raised commercially for food products.
 - **Veterinary prescription drug** definition simplified and aligned with federal labeling.
 - **Prescription requirements** expanded to include withdrawal times, expiration dates, and refills.
 - **Dispensing without VCPR** allowed only in narrow circumstances (e.g., inadequate supply, emergency).
 - **Labeling requirements** expanded.
 - **Recordkeeping** requirements clarified.
 - **Extra-label use** updated to require compliance with federal withdrawal time standards.
 - **New sections added:**
 - Veterinary Feed Directives (VFDs).
 - Drug donation and reissue program.
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14. Repealers

The draft repeals:

- 156.001 subd. 9 (operation).

- 156.01 subd. 2 (MVMA nomination process).
 - 156.02 subd. 3 (exam for foreign graduates).
 - 156.072 subd. 3 (nonresident exam).
 - 156.073 (temporary permit).
 - 156.16 subds. 2–4, 7, 8, 11 (definitions replaced).
 - 156.20 (inspections and samples—replaced by updated 156.121).
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Overall Summary

The Revisor’s draft is a **comprehensive modernization** of Chapter 156. The most significant themes are:

1. Modernization of terminology

Telemedicine, teletriage, emergency stabilization, veterinary specialists, technologists, and facility definitions bring the chapter into alignment with current practice.

2. Expansion of technician roles

Recordkeeping, pharmaceutical duties, CE requirements, humane care obligations, and clearer supervision rules.

3. Strengthened regulatory authority

More detailed disciplinary grounds, expanded inspection authority, and clearer VCPR requirements.

4. Updated drug regulation

Clearer definitions, labeling, dispensing rules, and new programs (VFDs, drug donation).

5. Structural updates

Board composition expanded to include technicians; outdated provisions repealed.