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Board of Veterinary Medicine

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<https://mn.gov/boards/veterinary-medicine/>

AT A GLANCE

- 3,753 veterinarians served: 3,403 active licenses and 350 inactive licenses
- 60% of Minnesotans estimated to own animals
- Veterinarians renew licenses every two years
- Average of 201 new licensees yearly
- 111 complaints from the public investigated annually
- Two full time staff persons

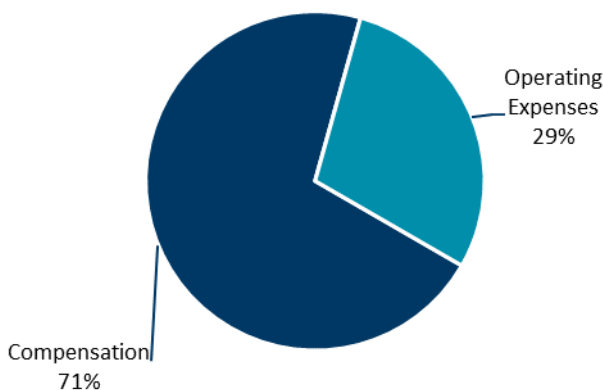
PURPOSE

The mission of the Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine (BVM) is to promote, preserve, and protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public and animals. We achieve this through the effective control and regulation of the practice of veterinary medicine on behalf of animals and their owners. We ensure Minnesota veterinarians have the education and skills needed to become licensed, and that they will work to optimize animal health. We curb the unlicensed practice of veterinary medicine that endangers animals and the public.

We work constructively to maintain current standards for the practice of veterinary medicine in Minnesota. These services include assessment of veterinarians’ qualifications for licensure, investigation and remediation of public complaints pertaining to veterinary medicine, and provision of public access to disciplinary and corrective actions. To prevent substandard veterinary care, we monitor veterinarians’ ongoing completion of continuing education and communicate strategies to optimize veterinarians’ professional conduct. Additionally, during emergencies such as the pandemic, we work closely with the Governor’s Office to classify veterinarians as essential workers and find tools to minimize transmission of the virus to their staff and clients.

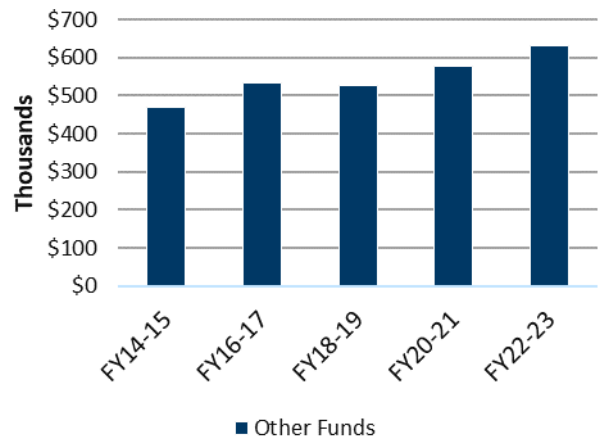
BUDGET

**Spending by Category
FY 2023 Actual**



Source: Budget Planning & Analysis System (BPAS)

Historical Spending



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

The Board is funded by licensure fees and receives no general fund dollars. Minnesota Statutes section 214.06, subdivision 1(a) compels the Board to collect fees in the amount sufficient to cover direct and indirect expenditures. Funds are deposited as non-dedicated revenue into the state government special revenue fund. From this fund, the Board receives a direct appropriation to pay for agency expenses such as salaries, rent, costs associated with disciplinary/contested cases, and operating expenditures. It also pays statewide indirect costs through an open appropriation.

In addition to Board operations, licensure fees fund activities that support multiple boards and/or other agencies. Some of these are: the Administrative Services Unit (inter-board), Health Professionals Services Program (inter-board), Office of the Attorney General for legal services, and the Criminal Background Check Program (inter-board).

STRATEGIES

To accomplish our mission, we utilize the following strategies:

1. Regulatory:

- Ensure license applicants are qualified to practice veterinary medicine in Minnesota by careful review of credentials, including the criminal background check.
- Examine each license applicant's knowledge of standards of veterinary practice, laws, and rules.
- Evaluate declarations of any criminal charges, license discipline or insufficient continuing education.
- Hold veterinarians accountable for their professional conduct based on legal, ethical, and professional standards.
- Require veterinarians to stay updated on advances in veterinary medicine through continuing education.
- Investigate complaints pertaining to veterinarians or unlicensed practice of veterinary medicine.
- Take corrective or disciplinary action if a risk to human or animal safety is identified and determine what course of action will improve a veterinarian's performance.
- Register professional firms practicing veterinary medicine and update the database via annual reports.
- Facilitate license application, license renewal, and filing of complaints via our interactive website.
- Provide other states with verification of the license status of a veterinarian when requested.
- Collaborate with the other MN government agencies: Board of Pharmacy, Board of Chiropractic Examiners, Criminal Background Check Program, Health Professionals Services Program, Board of Animal Health, Governor's Office, Department of Health, Racing Commission, and Department of Revenue.
- Collaborate with federal government agencies: Drug Enforcement Administration, US Department of Agriculture, and Internal Revenue Service.
- Participate in committees and programs presented by the American Association of Veterinary State Boards pertaining to current regulatory issues and best practices to address these in Minnesota.
- Participate as an ex-officio member of the board of directors of the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association to provide input on current issues facing the veterinary profession in Minnesota.

2. Education:

- Inform veterinarians of any regulatory changes that impact the practice of veterinary medicine.
- Provide education on regulatory issues via written materials on our website, newsletters, direct mail, and presentations at veterinary conference, webinars, and the University of Minnesota.
- Assist the public by relaying information regarding the scope of practice of veterinary medicine, complaint process and past corrective and disciplinary action for veterinarians.
- Address questions posed by the media, legislature, veterinarians, public, agencies, firms, and associations.

RESULTS

Measure name	Measure type	Measure data source	Historical trend (FY 2023)	Most recent data (FY 2024)
<i>Number of licensees (active and inactive)</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Automated Licensure Management System</i>	<i>3718</i>	<i>3753</i>
<i>Percent of license renewals done online/electronically</i>	<i>Quality</i>	<i>Automated Licensure Management System</i>	<i>76%</i>	<i>77%</i>
<i>Number of complaints against licensees</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Automated Licensure Management System</i>	<i>202</i>	<i>176</i>
<i>Number of complaints against non-veterinarians</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Automated Licensure Management System</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>Professional firm renewals</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Automated Licensure Management System</i>	<i>609</i>	<i>532</i>
<i>Emails requiring a response responded to within one business day</i>	<i>Quality</i>	<i>Random one week sample of board inbox</i>	<i>NA – first year tracking</i>	<i>86%</i>

Our statutory, legal authority is granted by M.S. 156. (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=156>)

Other statutes and rules that significantly apply to the function of our board and the practice of veterinary medicine include M.S. 13, M.S. 14, M.S. 151, M.S. 152, M.S. 214, M.S. 319B, and MN Rules 6800 and 9100.

Veterinary Medicine, Board of

Agency Expenditure Overview

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY22	Actual FY23	Actual FY24	Estimate FY25	Forecast Base FY26 FY27		Governor's Recommendation FY26 FY27	
<u>Expenditures by Fund</u>								
1201 - Health Related Boards	291	326	354	443	444	444	544	544
2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue	6	9	8	13	10	10	10	10
Total	297	334	361	456	454	454	554	554
Biennial Change				186		91		291
Biennial % Change				30		11		36
Governor's Change from Base								200
Governor's % Change from Base								22
<u>Expenditures by Program</u>								
Veterinary Medicine Board	297	334	361	456	454	454	554	554
Total	297	334	361	456	454	454	554	554
<u>Expenditures by Category</u>								
Compensation	226	237	271	245	248	253	348	353
Operating Expenses	71	97	90	210	205	200	205	200
Other Financial Transaction	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
Total	297	334	361	456	454	454	554	554
<u>Full-Time Equivalents</u>	2.00	2.22	2.31	2.00	2.00	2.00	3.00	3.00

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY22	Actual FY23	Actual FY24	Estimate FY25	Forecast Base FY26 FY27		Governor's Recommendation FY26 FY27	
1201 - Health Related Boards								
Balance Forward In		78		28				
Direct Appropriation	363	363	382	415	444	444	544	544
Cancellations		115						
Balance Forward Out	72		28					
Expenditures	291	326	354	443	444	444	544	544
Biennial Change in Expenditures				180		91		291
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				29		11		37
Governor's Change from Base								200
Governor's % Change from Base								23
Full-Time Equivalents	2.00	2.22	2.31	2.00	2.00	2.00	3.00	3.00

2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue

Balance Forward In	2	3	3	3				
Receipts	7	8	7	10	10	10	10	10
Balance Forward Out	3	3	3					
Expenditures	6	9	8	13	10	10	10	10
Biennial Change in Expenditures				6		(1)		(1)
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				41		(2)		(2)
Governor's Change from Base								0
Governor's % Change from Base								0

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY25	FY26	FY27	Biennium 2026-27
Direct				
Fund: 1201 - Health Related Boards				
FY2025 Appropriations	415	415	415	830
Base Adjustments				
Current Law Base Change		29	29	58
Forecast Base	415	444	444	888
Change Items				
New Licensure Specialist Position		100	100	200
Total Governor's Recommendations	415	544	544	1,088
Dedicated				
Fund: 2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue				
Planned Spending	13	10	10	20
Forecast Base	13	10	10	20
Total Governor's Recommendations	13	10	10	20
Revenue Change Summary				
Dedicated				
Fund: 2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue				
Forecast Revenues	10	10	10	20
Total Governor's Recommendations	10	10	10	20
Non-Dedicated				
Fund: 1201 - Health Related Boards				
Forecast Revenues	417	417	417	834
Change Items				
Fee Increase		219	219	438
Total Governor's Recommendations	417	636	636	1,272

Board of Veterinary Medicine

FY 2026-27 Biennial Budget Change Item

Change Item Title: Fee Increase

Fiscal Impact (\$000s)	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
General Fund				
Expenditures	0	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Other Funds				
Expenditures	0	0	0	0
Revenues	219	219	219	219
Net Fiscal Impact = (Expenditures – Revenues)	(219)	(219)	(219)	(219)
FTEs	0	0	0	0

Recommendation:

The Governor recommends increasing or establishing twelve (12) of the licensure and application fees collected by the Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine. This would increase revenues in the state government special revenue fund by an estimated \$219,000 in FY 2026 and \$219,000 in each subsequent year. The additional revenue would ensure the Board collects enough to cover its operating expenditures; current revenues are not sufficient to fund all expenses. Additionally, most of the Board’s fees are still written in Minnesota Rules and need to be moved into Statutes.

Rationale/Background

The mission of the Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine (BVM) is to promote, preserve, and protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public and animals through effective control and regulation of the practice of veterinary medicine. Seven volunteer Board members, including two public members, provide oversight and assist the Board’s two staff in fulfilling its mission to protect Minnesotans and their animals.

The Board is entirely fee supported and receives no General Fund dollars to support its services. Fees must be collected to cover all direct and shared operational costs and are deposited as non-dedicated revenue into the State Government Special Revenue Fund (SGSR). The Minnesota Legislature makes a biennial appropriation from this fund to cover all expenses incurred by the Board.

The Board’s fees have not been increased since 1997. Increasing operating costs have created a widening gap between revenues and expenditures; If fee increases are not implemented, the Board will be unable to fund its current operations within 2-3 years.

Proposal:

The Governor recommends amending the Board’s fees in accordance with the below tables. Ten (10) existing fees will be increased, and two (2) new fees for veterinary institutional licenses will be established in line with Minnesota Session Law 2024, Chapter 127, Article 20, section 6. The Governor also recommends adding “not to exceed” language to the Board’s fees to allow them to adjust fees as needed. The Board plans to increase fees to the proposed maximums in FY 2026.

The tables below identify the fees for which a fee increase is recommended and include: (1) Type of Fee; (2) Current Fee Amount; (3) Requested new fee amount; (4) Quantity/Number of those paying fee in 2023; and (5) Projected additional revenue from fee increase. Fees for the Board’s license types (Active, Inactive, Institutional) are identified:

APPLICATION FEES				
Type of Fee	Current Fee	Proposed New Fee "Not to Exceed"	FY2023 – Number Paying Fee	Projected Additional Revenue (Based on FY2023 Data)
Initial Application	\$50	\$75	224	\$5600
State Exam	\$50	\$75	270	\$6750
Duplicate License	\$10	\$25	54	\$810
CE Sponsor Application	\$50	\$75	27	\$675
Mailing List	\$100	\$250	33	\$4950
TOTAL – APPLICATION FEES				\$18,785

LICENSE RENEWAL FEES				
Type of Fee	Current Fee	Proposed New Fee "Not to Exceed"	FY2023 – Number Paying Fee	Projected Additional Revenue (Based on FY2023 Data)
Active Renewal Fee	\$200	\$300	1631	\$163,100
Inactive Renewal Fee	\$100	\$150	175	\$8750
Institutional License Fee Initiation July1, 2025	N/A	\$300	2025 estimated number - 6	\$1800
Active Late Renewal Fee	\$100	\$150	58	\$2900
Inactive Late Renewal Fee	\$50	\$100	33	\$1650
Institutional Late Renewal Fee	N/A	\$150	Estimated - 1	\$150
Initial License Fee	\$200	\$300	220	\$22,000
TOTAL – LICENSE FEES				\$200,400
APPLICATION + LICENSE FEES				\$219,135

Dollars in Thousands

Net Impact by Fund	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26-27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 28-29
State Government Special Revenue	(219)	(219)	(438)	(219)	(219)	(438)
Total All Funds	(219)	(219)	(438)	(219)	(219)	(438)

Impact on Children and Families:

The increased fees should not impact access to veterinary care for Minnesota children and families. Instead, the Board seeks to maintain and improve its efficient and effective licensure and regulation of Veterinary Medicine as a public protection measure for Minnesotans. The regulation of veterinary medicine ensures competent veterinarians provide medical care for our companion, research, and food animals.

Equity and Inclusion:

The Board recognizes that any increase in costs for Minnesota veterinarians has the potential to negatively impact any person, including people of color, Native Americans, people with disabilities, people in the LGBTQ+ community, other protected classes, or Veterans. The Board believes that 27 years without a licensing fee increase lessens or negates such a negative impact. The proposed fee increases are still well below calculated inflation rates since 1997.

Tribal Consultation:

Does this proposal have a substantial direct effect on one or more of the Minnesota Tribal governments?

- Yes
- No

IT Costs:

The fee increase proposal, if granted, would result in minimal IT-related costs to update such fees in the Board’s licensure database. The cost of these updates will be absorbed by the Board within its current appropriation request; no additional appropriation is requested.

Results:

The results of this proposal would be indicated through the successful establishment and fiscal solvency of the Board of Veterinary Medicine within a five-year period. The current fee structure does not collect sufficient fees to support the increased expenditure required for board operations. Performance data will be documented on an annual basis and through routine reporting.

With these fee changes, and increased revenue, the Board can achieve the following results:

1. Maintain core public safety responsibilities, including timely and efficient licensure of veterinary professionals to serve Minnesotans.
2. Manage complex and numerous complaint investigations and licensing-related issues to avoid adverse effects on citizens, professionals, and the workforce.
3. Maintain necessary staffing to conduct its business in a timely manner.
4. Afford necessary and increased technology costs.
5. Afford increased legal costs necessary for complaint investigation and resolution.
6. Continue to efficiently conduct the Board’s business to ensure fulfillment of its public protection mission.
7. Avoid deficit spending and maintain a balanced budget as required by State law.

Measure name	Measure type	Measure data source	Historical trend (2023)	Most recent data (2024)
Number of licensees (active and inactive)	Quantity	Automated Licensure Management System	3718	3753
Percent of license renewals done online/electronically	Quality	Automated Licensure Management System	76%	77%
Number of complaints against licensees	Quantity	Automated Licensure Management System	202	176
Number of complaints against non-veterinarians	Quantity	Automated Licensure Management System	13	28
Professional firm renewals	Quantity	Automated Licensure Management System	609	532
Emails requiring a response responded to within one business day	Quality	Random one week sample of board inbox	NA – first year tracking	86%

Statutory Change(s):

Most of the Board's fees are listed in Minnesota Rules, parts 9100.0400, 9100.0500, and 9100.0600. In addition to increasing them, these fees will need to be moved to M.S. 156.015, which already lists the remaining fees.

Board of Veterinary Medicine

FY 2026-27 Biennial Budget Change Item

Change Item Title: New Licensure Specialist Position

Fiscal Impact (\$000s)	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
General Fund				
Expenditures	0	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Other Funds				
Expenditures	100	100	100	100
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Net Fiscal Impact = (Expenditures – Revenues)	100	100	100	100
FTEs	1	1	1	1

Recommendation:

The Governor recommends additional funding of \$100,000 in FY 2026 and \$100,000 in each subsequent year from the state government special revenue fund for the Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine (the Board) to increase its administrative capacity with a new full-time licensure specialist staff position.

Rationale/Background

The mission of the Board of Veterinary Medicine is “to promote, preserve, and protect the health, safety and welfare of the public and animals through the effective control and regulation of the practice of veterinary medicine.” As part of its duties, the Board issues licenses to veterinary practitioners to ensure their compliance with state laws and regulations.

The number of licensees in the state have risen in recent years, increasing the number of applications and renewals that the Board must process annually, as has the number of complaints submitted to the Board that it must investigate. As a result, the Board’s workload is beginning to surpass its administrative capacity to fulfill its oversight responsibilities efficiently.

On July 1, 2026, the Board will also begin licensing veterinary technicians in the state of Minnesota. It is anticipated there will be over 2,000 new applications to process and license along with an increase in complaint investigations specific to licensed veterinary technicians. The Board’s current staff levels will be insufficient to effectively manage this new workload.

Proposal:

In anticipation of the Board’s rising workload, the Governor recommends increasing the Board’s appropriation to hire a new licensure specialist to strengthen its administrative capacity. This staff position will help license new veterinary technician applicants, to process annual renewals, and assist in veterinary technician complaint processing. This recommendation will allow the Board to meet its statutory requirements in a more time efficient manner.

The Board is entirely funded with revenue from the fees it collects. The Board does not currently earn enough revenue from fees to accommodate this increased appropriation; however, it would be able to support it with the fee increases listed in the Governor’s other recommended change item for the Board (see Fee Increase item).

Dollars in Thousands

Net Impact by Fund	FY 26	FY 27	FY 25-27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 28-29
Special General Revenue Fund	100	100	200	100	100	200
Total All Funds	100	100	200	100	100	200

Fund	Component Description	FY 26	FY 27	FY 25-27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 28-29
SGSR	Compensation	100	100	200	100	100	200

Impact on Children and Families:

The increased spending authority should not impact access to veterinary care for Minnesota children and families. Instead, the Board seeks to maintain and improve its efficient and effective licensure and regulation of Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Technology as a public protection measure for Minnesotans. The regulation of veterinary medicine ensures competent veterinarians provide medical care for our companion, research, and food animals.

Equity and Inclusion:

This recommendation would not have a direct impact on equity and inclusion, but it would assist the Board meet its regulatory responsibilities to protect all Minnesotans and their animals.

Tribal Consultation:

Does this proposal have a substantial direct effect on one or more of the Minnesota Tribal governments?

- Yes
- No

IT Costs:

The increase in spending authority, if granted, would result in minimal IT-related costs to add one full-time employee. The cost of these updates will be absorbed by the Board within its appropriation request.

Results:

With increased spending authority, the Board will be able to provide efficient and cost-effective licensure of veterinary technicians in Minnesota, and better serve our licensees and the citizens of Minnesota.

Measure	Measure type	Measure data source	Most recent data	Projected change
Number of veterinary technician license applications processed	Quantity	Licensing database	N/A	2000+ in FY26

Statutory Change(s):

No statutory change is required for this initiative.