

HB 1305 - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-2879

08/09

HOUSE BILL **1305**

AN ACT enabling the use of telehealth to deliver veterinary care.

SPONSORS: Rep. Litchfield, Rock. 32; Rep. Pauer, Hills. 36; Rep. Notter, Hills. 12; Rep. Peternel, Carr. 6; Rep. L. Miner, Rock. 7; Rep. Moffett, Merr. 4; Rep. S. Smith, Sull. 3; Sen. Gannon, Dist 23; Sen. McGough, Dist 11; Sen. Lang, Dist 2; Sen. Sullivan, Dist 18

COMMITTEE: Environment and Agriculture

ANALYSIS

This bill enables the use of telehealth to deliver veterinary care.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struck through.~~]
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six

AN ACT enabling the use of telehealth to deliver veterinary care.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 New Section; Veterinary Telehealth. Amend RSA 332-B by inserting after section 20 the
2 following new section:

3 332-B:21 Veterinary Telehealth.

4 I. As used in this section “veterinary telehealth” means the use of communications
5 technologies to provide veterinary medical care remotely.

6 II. A veterinarian who holds a current license to practice veterinary medicine in this state
7 may practice veterinary telehealth.

8 III. Subject to the judgment of a licensed veterinarian, a veterinarian-client-patient
9 relationship (VCPR) may be established through veterinary telehealth if the following requirements
10 are met:

11 (a) The veterinarian and client use real-time, audiovisual communication through which
12 the animal is observed, or the veterinarian obtains current knowledge of the animal patient using
13 instrumentation and diagnostic equipment through which images and medical records may be
14 transmitted electronically. Real-time video engagement is not required for the delivery of
15 telemedicine services after a VCPR is established.

16 (b) If relevant medical records exist from a previous in-person visit and are available to
17 the client, the records, including diagnostic data if available, may be transmitted electronically to
18 enable the veterinarian to obtain historical knowledge of the animal.

19 (c) The veterinarian obtains from the client a signed and dated statement of consent
20 including acknowledgment of the following:

21 (1) The same standards of care under the state veterinary practice act and
22 corresponding regulations apply to telemedicine and in-person veterinary medical services; and

23 (2) The client has the option to choose an in-person visit rather than a telemedicine
24 service.

25 IV. If a veterinarian practicing telehealth conducts a patient evaluation sufficient to
26 diagnose and treat the patient, the veterinarian is not required to research a patient’s medical
27 history or conduct a physical examination of the patient before using veterinary telehealth to provide
28 a veterinary health care service to the patient.

29 V. A veterinarian practicing veterinary telehealth may order, prescribe, or make available
30 medicinal drugs provided the prescription complies with state and federal law.

31 VI. A veterinarian practicing veterinary telehealth shall do the following:

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1 (a) Maintain confidentiality and privacy protection for the client and patient;

2 (b) Provide the client with instructions for how to receive patient follow-up care or
3 assistance in the event the veterinarian and client are unable to communicate because of a
4 technological or equipment failure or if there is an adverse reaction to treatment;

5 (c) Inform the client that if medication is prescribed the client may obtain a prescription
6 that may be filled at the pharmacy of his or her choice;

7 (d) Be familiar with available veterinary resources, including emergency resources, near
8 the patient's location and be able to provide the client with a list of nearby veterinarians who may be
9 able to see the patient in person upon the request of the client;

10 (e) Comply with state and federal laws and regulations; and

11 (f) Keep, maintain, and make available a summary of the patient record of a
12 telemedicine visit in accordance with records requirements for the provision of in-person veterinary
13 medical services.

14 VII. A veterinarian may not prescribe a controlled substance without an in-person physical
15 examination of the patient, except for limited dosage deemed essential by the veterinarian for
16 veterinary hospice or palliative care or to maintain an animal's safety during transport to a clinic for
17 in-person examination.

18 VIII. A veterinarian may not use veterinary telehealth to issue an international or
19 interstate travel certificate or a certificate of veterinary inspection.

20 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage