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S.B. 152*
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Reported by Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Brenner

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SUMMARY

- Authorizes the State Board of Pharmacy to issue a limited license to a wild animal rehabilitation facility (WARF) solely for purchasing, possessing, and administering drugs for euthanizing animals and pre-euthanizing drugs for inducing anesthesia, sedation, or unconsciousness.
- Prohibits a WARF's agent or employee from performing euthanasia by lethal injection, or administering pre-euthanasia drugs, unless the WARF in which the agent or employee works is licensed.
- Requires a WARF's agent or employee to complete a euthanasia technician certification course as a condition of licensure.
- Requires a WARF to apply for a limited category II or III terminal distributor license from the Pharmacy Board if it intends to use dangerous drugs for euthanasia purposes.
- Prohibits a WARF from being licensed as a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs unless specified criteria are met, including at least one of the WARF's agents or employees is a certified euthanasia technician.

* This analysis was prepared before the report of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources appeared in the Senate Journal. Note that the legislative history may be incomplete.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Wild animal rehabilitation facilities

Overview

Under continuing law, the State Board of Pharmacy may issue a limited license to an animal shelter and county dog warden for purchasing, possessing, and administering drugs (in dosage form) for animal euthanasia. In order to receive a license, a county dog warden and an agent or employee of an animal shelter or county dog warden must successfully complete a euthanasia technician certification course. However, if the warden, agent, or employee is a registered veterinary technician, the agent or employee does not need to complete the course.¹

The bill allows a wild animal rehabilitation facility (WARF) to obtain a limited license in order to administer euthanasia drugs to animals. A “wild animal rehabilitation facility” is a facility that holds a permit issued by the ODNR Chief of the Division of Wildlife for rehabilitation purposes in accordance with current law governing scientific, educational, or rehabilitation collection permits.²

Limited license for facilities

As indicated above, the bill allows the State Board of Pharmacy to issue a limited license to a WARF solely for purchasing, possessing, and administering drugs for euthanizing animals and pre-euthanizing drugs for inducing anesthesia, sedation, or unconsciousness. Given this authorization, it prohibits an agent or employee of a WARF from performing euthanasia by lethal injection unless both of the following apply:

1. The WARF has a limited license; and
2. The agent or employee has received certification after successfully completing a euthanasia technician certification course. (If the agent or employee is a veterinarian technician, completion of the course is not required.)

The bill also prohibits the WARF’s agent or employee (as well as an agent or employee of an animal shelter or dog shelter as in continuing law) from administering pre-euthanasia drugs that induce anesthesia, sedation, or unconsciousness unless both conditions in (1) and (2) above apply. It also requires a WARF to administer drugs in a humane and proficient manner in conformity with approved methods and not in violation of Ohio’s animal cruelty laws.³

Drugs used by licensees

The bill prohibits a WARF’s agent or employee from performing euthanasia by lethal injection using any substance other than an approved substance. When using a lethal solution to

¹ R.C. 4729.531.

² R.C. 4729.01(T)(3).

³ R.C. 4729.531 and 4729.532(A), (C), and (D).

perform euthanasia on an animal, an agent or employee must use the solution in accordance with the current law methods.⁴

Use of dangerous drugs

The bill requires a WARF to apply for a limited category II or III terminal distributor license from the Pharmacy Board if it intends to use dangerous drugs for euthanasia purposes. With regard to the application, both of the following apply:

1. The WARF must include with the application a list of the dangerous drugs to be administered to animals and the personnel who are authorized to administer them to animals.
2. Once issued a license, the WARF may possess and use dangerous drugs for euthanasia as authorized by the bill.⁵

Finally, the bill prohibits a WARF, like an animal shelter and county dog warden as in continuing law, from being licensed as a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs unless:

1. The WARF will maintain supervision and control over the possession and custody of dangerous drugs that are acquired by or on behalf of the WARF; and
2. At least one of the WARF's agents or employees is a certified euthanasia technician.⁶

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	03-19-25
Reported, S. Agriculture & Natural Resources	--

ANSB0152RS-136/ts

⁴ R.C. 4729.532(A).

⁵ R.C. 4729.54(F) and (H)(2).

⁶ R.C. 4729.55(B) and (F).