

By: Johnson

S.B. No. 1442

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study by the State Board of Veterinary Medical  
Examiners on establishing a veterinarian-client-patient  
relationship by telephone or electronic means.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. (a) In this Act, "board" means the State Board  
of Veterinary Medical Examiners.

(b) The board shall conduct a study on establishing a  
veterinarian-client-patient relationship by telephone or  
electronic means, including by using audiovisual  
telecommunications technology. In conducting the study, the board  
must consider:

(1) whether synchronous audiovisual  
telecommunications technology is available and efficient for use by  
veterinarians;

(2) the board's authority to exercise jurisdiction  
over a veterinarian practicing veterinary medicine in this state by  
telephone or electronic means, regardless of the veterinarian's  
physical location;

(3) the need for rules regarding the affiliation of a  
veterinarian practicing veterinary medicine by telephone or  
electronic means with a veterinary practice located in this state;

(4) the need for laws regarding the prescription of  
controlled substances and the provision of veterinary medical

1 services to animals associated with an agricultural operation;

2 (5) whether to amend Chapter 801, Occupations Code, to  
3 authorize and regulate the establishment of a  
4 veterinarian-client-patient relationship by telephone or  
5 electronic means without a physical examination of an animal; and

6 (6) the extent to which changes to Chapter 801,  
7 Occupations Code, are required for the state to comply with the  
8 opinion in *Hines v. Pardue*, 117 F.4th 769 (5th Cir. 2024).

9 (c) Not later than December 1, 2026, the board shall submit  
10 to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house  
11 of representatives, and each standing committee of the legislature  
12 with primary jurisdiction over the practice of veterinary medicine  
13 a report on the results of the study conducted under Subsection (b)  
14 of this section and any recommendations for legislative or other  
15 action. The report may be submitted electronically.

16 SECTION 2. This Act expires December 31, 2026.

17 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.