

# HB616 INTRODUCED



1 HB616  
2 EJK7XCC-1  
3 By Representative Wilcox  
4 RFD: Commerce and Small Business  
5 First Read: 12-Mar-26



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SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, a licensed veterinarian may not render veterinary medical services, including prescribing drugs, without establishing a veterinarian-client-patient relationship.

This bill would prohibit a licensed veterinarian from refusing to provide a written prescription upon request, subject to certain conditions.

This bill would require a licensed veterinarian to disclose that a client may request a written prescription before dispensing a prescription medication.

This bill would also require all veterinary facilities to post a conspicuous sign notifying the public of the fact that a client may request a written prescription from his or her veterinarian.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to veterinary medicine; to add Section 34-29-77.1 to the Code of Alabama 1975, to prohibit licensed veterinarians from refusing to provide written prescriptions



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29 upon request, subject to conditions; to require licensed  
30 veterinarians to disclose certain information prior to  
31 dispensing medications; and to require veterinary facilities  
32 to post signage stating that clients may request written  
33 prescriptions from his or her veterinarian.

34 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

35 Section 1. (a) For purposes of this section, the term  
36 "written prescription" includes paper prescriptions via manual  
37 transmission and electronic prescriptions via direct  
38 transmission to a pharmacy.

39 (b) A licensed veterinarian may not refuse to provide a  
40 written prescription to a client upon the client's request to  
41 do so if:

42 (1) In the licensed veterinarian's medical opinion, the  
43 prescription medication is medically safe for in-home  
44 administration by the owner; and

45 (2) A valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship  
46 exists.

47 (c) Before dispensing a prescription medication, a  
48 licensed veterinarian, or an authorized member of the  
49 veterinary staff, shall clearly inform a client that:

50 (1) The client may request to receive a written  
51 prescription for the medication that may be filled at a  
52 pharmacy of the client's choice; and

53 (2) If the veterinary facility is able to fill the  
54 prescription, the client may have the prescription filled at  
55 the facility.

56 (d) All veterinary facilities shall post a clear and



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57 conspicuous sign near the primary public entrance or at the  
58 primary point of sale or checkout that substantially states  
59 the following:

60 "UNDER ALABAMA LAW, A VETERINARY CLIENT MAY RECEIVE A  
61 WRITTEN PRESCRIPTION FROM HIS OR HER VETERINARIAN UPON REQUEST  
62 THAT MAY BE FILLED BY A PHARMACY OF HIS OR HER CHOOSING."

63 (e) This section does not apply if:

64 (1) In the determination of a licensed veterinarian,  
65 immediate dispensing of medication is necessary to preserve  
66 the life or prevent the suffering of a patient; or

67 (2) The prescription is for a medication for which  
68 dispensing is restricted by federal or state law.

69 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October  
70 1, 2026.