

As Introduced

136th General Assembly

Regular Session

2025-2026

S. B. No. 60

Senators Wilkin, Huffman

A BILL

To amend section 4741.04 and to enact section 1
4741.041 of the Revised Code to establish 2
requirements and procedures for veterinarian 3
telehealth visits. 4

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 4741.04 be amended and section 5
4741.041 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 6

Sec. 4741.04. A veterinary-client-patient relationship 7
serves as the basis for interaction between veterinarians, their 8
clients, and their patients. A veterinary-client-patient 9
relationship exists when all of the following conditions have 10
been met: 11

(A) A veterinarian assumes responsibility for making 12
clinical judgments regarding the health of a patient and the 13
need for medical treatment, medical services, or both for the 14
patient, and the client has agreed to follow the veterinarian's 15
instructions regarding the patient. 16

(B) The veterinarian has sufficient knowledge of the 17
patient to initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis 18
of the medical condition of the patient. In order to demonstrate 19

that the veterinarian has sufficient knowledge, the veterinarian 20
shall have seen the patient recently and also shall be 21
acquainted personally with the keeping and care of the patient 22
~~either by examining~~ doing any of the following: 23

(1) Examining the patient ~~or by making in person;~~ 24

(2) Examining the patient in real time via telehealth 25
services in accordance with section 4741.041 of the Revised 26
Code; 27

(3) Making medically appropriate and timely visits to the 28
premises where the patient is kept. 29

(C) The veterinarian is readily available for a follow-up 30
evaluation, or has arranged for emergency coverage, in the event 31
the patient suffers adverse reactions to the treatment regimen 32
or the treatment regimen fails. 33

Sec. 4741.041. (A) A licensed veterinarian may conduct 34
telehealth services if all of the following apply: 35

(1) The veterinarian obtains the informed consent from the 36
client, including an acknowledgement that the standards of care 37
prescribed by this chapter equally apply to in-person and 38
telehealth visits. The veterinarian shall maintain documentation 39
of the consent for at least three years after receiving the 40
informed consent. 41

(2) The veterinarian provides the client with the 42
veterinarian's name and contact information and secures an 43
alternate means of contacting the client if the telehealth visit 44
is interrupted. Following the telehealth visit, the veterinarian 45
shall make available to the client an electronic or written 46
record of the visit. The electronic or written record shall 47
include the veterinarian's license number. 48

(3) Before conducting an evaluation of a patient via a 49
telehealth visit, the veterinarian advises the client of all of 50
the following: 51

(a) The veterinarian may ultimately recommend an in-person 52
visit with the veterinarian or another licensed veterinarian; 53

(b) The veterinarian is prohibited under federal law from 54
prescribing certain drugs or medications based only on a 55
telehealth visit; 56

(c) The appointment for a telehealth visit may be 57
terminated at any time. 58

(B) A licensed veterinarian may prescribe drugs or 59
medications after establishing a veterinary-client-patient 60
relationship via telehealth services, except that all of the 61
following apply: 62

(1) The veterinarian may issue an initial prescription for 63
not more than fourteen days. The veterinarian may issue one 64
refill for not more than fourteen days if the veterinarian sees 65
the patient for another telehealth visit. For additional 66
refills, the patient shall visit the veterinarian in person. 67

(2) The veterinarian shall notify the client that certain 68
prescription drugs or medications may be available at a pharmacy 69
and, if requested, the veterinarian will submit a prescription 70
to a pharmacy of the client's choosing; 71

(3) The veterinarian shall not order, prescribe, or make 72
available a controlled substance, as defined in section 3719.01 73
of the Revised Code, unless the veterinarian has performed an 74
in-person physical examination of the patient. 75

(C) A licensed veterinarian whose client is engaged in any 76

aspect of food production may not use telehealth services unless 77
the veterinarian has established a veterinary-client-patient 78
relationship in person prior to the use of telehealth services. 79

Section 2. That existing section 4741.04 of the Revised 80
Code is hereby repealed. 81