

SUBJECT: Licensing fees of veterinarians

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 7 ayes — Craddick, Heflin, Holzheuser, Horn, Marchant, Place, Romo
0 nays
4 absent — Wolens, Finnell, T. Hunter, Oliveira

WITNESSES: For — Donald M. Ward, Texas Veterinary Medical Association, Ellis Gilleland
Against — none

BACKGROUND: In 1992 a \$200 occupation tax was levied on most licensed professionals, including veterinarians, with \$50 deposited in the foundation school fund and \$150 in general revenue. The reauthorization legislation for the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners enacted in 1993 did not include the professional occupation tax for veterinarians.

DIGEST: CSHB 1620 would reauthorize the annual professional occupation tax on veterinarians by increasing the license renewal fee by \$200.

For each fee collected, \$50 would be allocated to the foundation school fund and \$150 to general revenue. The disposition of the fee would supersede any other fee disposition in the law.

The fee would not apply to persons exempt from paying the license fee who are on active military duty and do not engage in private or civilian practice, who are permanently retired or who are on inactive status.

CSHB 1620 would take effect September 1, 1995 and would apply only to fees paid after the effective date.

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NOTES: The original version would have added the extra fee to any examination fee, as in prior law. The committee substitute added the exemptions.

The fiscal note projects a \$2 million probable gain to general revenue.