

- SUBJECT:** Renaming veterinarian technicians as veterinarian nurses
- COMMITTEE:** Agriculture and Livestock — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — Swinford, B. Brown, Christian, Green, Hardcastle, Hupp, C. Jones
0 nays
2 absent — McReynolds, Crownover
- WITNESSES:** For — Chris Copeland, Texas Veterinary Medical Association; Deborah Reeder and Renee Thornton, Texas Association of Registered Veterinary Technicians
Against — Wanda Douglas and James Willmann, Texas Nurses Association
On — Ron Allen, Texas State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
- DIGEST:** HB 2470 would replace the word “technician” with the word “nurse” in the Veterinary Licensing Act, art. 8890, VTCS. This bill would take effect September 1, 1999.
- SUPPORTERS SAY:** HB 2470 would change the job title of veterinary technicians to veterinary nurses. This would help the general public better understand the function of this profession.

Some other states and most European countries use the term nurse when referring to those who assist veterinarians. Recognizing this distinction in Texas would help make the term veterinary nurse uniform worldwide.

Veterinary technicians undergo training similar to that of nurses in the number of years, types and levels of degrees, and course work. In fact, veterinary technicians have more in common with nurses than they have with technicians.
- OPPONENTS SAY:** HB 2470 would allow veterinary technicians to call themselves nurses, a term that up to now has been reserved for nurses who treat human patients. If veterinary technicians are allowed to call themselves nurses, people will

believe them to be “people” nurses, since no one is familiar with animal nurses. This word change would confuse the public and water down the meaning of nursing.