

SUBJECT:	Prohibiting a municipality from adopting certain veterinary regulations
COMMITTEE:	Agriculture & Livestock — favorable, without amendment
VOTE:	6 ayes — Cain, Anderson, Cody Harris, Kitzman, Thimesch, Wilson 3 nays — Bernal, Goodwin, Rosenthal
WITNESSES:	<p>For — Trent Hightower, Texas Veterinary Medical Association (<i>Registered, but did not testify</i>: Annie Spilman, NFIB; Melissa Hamilton, Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association; Darren Turley, Texas Association of Dairymen; Josh Winegarner, Texas Cattle Feeders Association)</p> <p>Against — Katrina Breitreiter, South Austin Cat Hospital; Carla Cain; David Lundstedt; Courtney Ulmer (<i>Registered, but did not testify</i>: Brie Franco, City of Austin; Alex Gamez, Humane Society)</p>
BACKGROUND:	<p>Occupations Code sec. 801.002 defines "practice of veterinary medicine" as the diagnosis, treatment, correction, change, manipulation, relief, or prevention of animal disease, deformity, defect, injury, or other physical condition, including the prescription or administration of a drug, biologic, anesthetic, apparatus, or other therapeutic or diagnostic substance or technique.</p> <p>The code also defines "veterinarian" as a person licensed by the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners to practice veterinary medicine.</p> <p>Concerns have been raised that some cities may regulate the practice of veterinarians in a manner outside the scope of municipal authority.</p>
DIGEST:	<p>HB 1348 would prohibit a municipality, unless expressly authorized by law, from adopting or enforcing an ordinance, rule, or regulation that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• regulated the practice of veterinary medicine; or• prohibited a veterinarian from performing a procedure on an animal

that was not statutorily prohibited.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2023.