

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION
BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

7 EAGLE SQUARE, CONCORD, NH 03301-4980
Telephone: 603-271-2152
TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964
www.oplc.nh.gov

STANDING ORDER

Order Waiving New Continuing Education Requirements

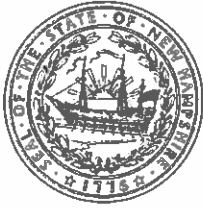
The Board has the authority to initiate a waiver or suspension of a substantive rule pursuant to RSA 332-B and administrative rule Vet 207.01 (f). The Board issues this standing order (Order), effective 5/15/23, waiving the requirement found in Vet 403.01 (a) stating “the licensee shall obtain a minimum of 30 hours of continuing education during the immediately preceding 24 months of the date of renewal as set forth in RSA 332-B:13, III *with a minimum of 6 hours earned per each 12-month period preceding the renewal.* (Emphasis added).

This Order finds that waiver would be consistent with the criteria set forth in Vet 207.01(b) contemplating in relevant part 1) whether adherence to the rule would cause the petitioner hardship; 2) whether waiver is necessary because of any neglect or misfeasance on the part of the petitioner; 3) whether waiver of the rule would be consistent with the statutes and regulatory programs administered by the Board; and 4) whether waiver of the rule would injure third persons.

The Board finds that adherence to the newly adopted rule would cause hardship to licensees attempting to renew licenses. The rule in question was adopted on February 15, 2023. Licensees will apply for renewal by December 31, 2023. Under the previous renewal rules, licensees could obtain all 30 hours in the 12-month period immediately preceding the date of renewal. Under the new rules, licensees who did not obtain at least 6 hours during the first 12-month period prior to date of renewal would be ineligible for renewal. This could cause great hardship to licensees who did not foresee a change in rule possibly resulting in unintentional noncompliance and resulting discipline.

The Board finds this waiver is not caused by any neglect or misfeasance on the part of the licensee because licensees were reasonably relying on the prior rule for the first half of their renewal period. Waiver of this rule would be consistent with the statutes and regulatory programs administered by the Board because the Board intends to renew licenses for licensees who meet the requirements of obtaining 30 hours of continuing education. Finally, waiving this rule would not injure third persons because the licensees are still required to obtain the total amount of continuing education requirements, giving them a strong foundation of continuing competence.

The Board authorizes, pursuant to NH RSA 310-A:1-d, II(b) and (d), OPLC licensing to approve renewal applications which document 30 hours of continuing education during the immediately preceding 24 months of the date of renewal but which do not document a minimum of 6 hours



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION
BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

7 EAGLE SQUARE, CONCORD, NH 03301-4980
Telephone: 603-271-2152
TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964
www.oplc.nh.gov

earned per each 12-month period preceding the renewal. This Standing Order shall expire on February 28, 2025.

By Order of the Board:

Date: 4/19/23

Board Chair: 