



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB5411

Introduced 2/13/2026, by Rep. Kelly M. Cassidy

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

225 ILCS 115/30 new
510 ILCS 5/8

from Ch. 8, par. 358

Specifies that the Act may be referred to as the Rabies Vaccination Access for Shelters and Public Health Act. Amends the Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act of 2004 and the Animal Control Act. Allows a licensed veterinarian to delegate rabies vaccination within an animal shelter, animal control facility, or government-authorized public health vaccination clinic to a certified veterinary technician or trained shelter vaccine administrator who is acting under the veterinarian's indirect supervision. Requires written protocols, training verification, and oversight by the supervising veterinarian. Directs the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation under the Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act of 2004 and the Department of Agriculture under the Animal Control Act to adopt rules within 12 months of the effective date of the amendatory Act. Effective January 1, 2027.

LRB104 19855 BDA 33305 b

1 AN ACT concerning animals.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. References to Act. This Act may be referred to
5 as the Rabies Vaccination Access for Shelters and Public
6 Health Act.

7 Section 5. Legislative findings. The General Assembly
8 finds and declares that:

9 (1) Rabies vaccinations are a critical public health
10 safeguard.

11 (2) Animal shelters and animal control facilities
12 routinely vaccinate large numbers of animals entering care
13 to protect the public, staff, volunteers, and other
14 animals.

15 (3) Illinois faces shortages of veterinarians
16 available to staff shelter and high-volume public health
17 vaccination settings.

18 (4) Certified veterinary technicians and trained
19 shelter personnel, when operating on the premises under
20 indirect supervision of a licensed veterinarian, can
21 safely administer rabies vaccines pursuant to standardized
22 protocols.

23 (5) This Act is intended to expand rabies vaccination

1 capacity only within shelters and public health settings,
2 without altering the practice of veterinary medicine in
3 private clinical settings.

4 Section 10. The Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice
5 Act of 2004 is amended by adding Section 30 as follows:

6 (225 ILCS 115/30 new)

7 Sec. 30. Rabies vaccination in shelter and public health
8 settings.

9 (a) A licensed veterinarian may delegate administration of
10 rabies vaccines within an animal shelter, animal control
11 facility, or government-authorized public health vaccination
12 clinic to:

13 (1) a certified veterinary technician; or

14 (2) a trained shelter vaccine administrator.

15 (b) Rabies vaccination under this Section shall occur only
16 if the supervising licensed veterinarian:

17 (1) is physically present at the facility, readily
18 available for consultation, and responsible for oversight
19 of the vaccine administration;

20 (2) has established and maintains written vaccination
21 protocols;

22 (3) ensures proper vaccine storage, handling, and
23 inventory control;

24 (4) verifies training and competency of delegated

1 personnel; and

2 (5) retains professional responsibility for the rabies
3 vaccination program.

4 (c) This Section does not apply to private veterinary
5 practices, mobile private clinics, or for-profit entities.

6 (d) Nothing in this Section shall be construed to:

7 (1) authorize diagnosis, prognosis, or treatment of
8 disease by non-licensed individuals;

9 (2) alter the veterinarian-client-patient
10 relationship; or

11 (3) diminish the authority or responsibility of
12 licensed veterinarians.

13 (e) The rabies vaccines used shall be approved by the
14 United States Department of Agriculture and administered in
15 accordance with the Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and
16 Control.

17 (f) Rabies vaccines shall be sold or used only by licensed
18 veterinarians or by shelters, animal control facilities, or
19 public health entities operating pursuant to written protocols
20 established and overseen on the premises by a supervising
21 licensed veterinarian.

22 (g) A certificate of rabies vaccination shall be issued
23 for each inoculation and shall identify the animal, the date
24 of vaccination, the duration of immunity, and the supervising
25 licensed veterinarian present on the premises at the time of
26 vaccination.

1 (h) The Department, in consultation with the Department of
2 Agriculture, shall adopt rules establishing minimum training,
3 documentation, and quality assurance requirements under this
4 Section. The Department shall adopt any other rules necessary
5 to implement and administer this Section. Rules under this
6 Section shall be adopted no later than 12 months after the
7 effective date of this amendatory Act of the 104th General
8 Assembly.

9 Section 15. The Animal Control Act is amended by changing
10 Section 8 as follows:

11 (510 ILCS 5/8) (from Ch. 8, par. 358)

12 Sec. 8. Rabies inoculation.

13 (a) Every owner of a dog 4 months or more of age shall have
14 each dog inoculated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian
15 or by a certified veterinary technician or trained shelter
16 vaccine administrator in accordance with a delegation under
17 Section 30 of the Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act
18 of 2004. Every dog shall have a second rabies vaccination
19 within one year of the first. Terms of subsequent vaccine
20 administration and duration of immunity must be in compliance
21 with USDA licenses of vaccines used.

22 (b) Every owner of a cat that is a companion animal and is
23 4 months or more of age shall have each cat inoculated against
24 rabies by a licensed veterinarian or by a certified veterinary

1 technician or trained shelter vaccine administrator in
2 accordance with a delegation under Section 30 of the
3 Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act of 2004. Every
4 cat that is a companion animal shall have a second rabies
5 vaccination within one year of the first. Terms of subsequent
6 vaccine administration and duration of immunity must be in
7 compliance with USDA licenses of vaccines used. This
8 subsection (b) does not apply to feral cats; however, if a
9 feral cat is presented to a licensed veterinarian for
10 sterilization, the feral cat shall be inoculated against
11 rabies, unless the person presenting the feral cat for care
12 provides an inoculation certificate showing that the feral cat
13 has been inoculated against rabies, and the cost of the
14 inoculation shall be paid by the person presenting the feral
15 cat to a licensed veterinarian for care.

16 (c) A veterinarian, veterinary technician, or a trained
17 shelter vaccine administrator immunizing a dog, cat, or ferret
18 against rabies shall provide the Administrator of the county
19 in which the dog, cat, or ferret resides with a certificate of
20 immunization. Evidence of such rabies inoculation shall be
21 entered on a certificate the form of which shall be approved by
22 the Board and which shall contain the microchip number of the
23 dog, cat, or ferret if it has one and which shall be signed by
24 the licensed veterinarian administering the vaccine. Only one
25 dog, cat, or ferret shall be included on each certificate.

26 (d) Veterinarians, veterinary technicians, or trained

1 shelter vaccine administrators who inoculate a dog shall
2 procure from the County Animal Control in the county where
3 their office is located serially numbered tags, one to be
4 issued with each inoculation certificate. The Board shall
5 cause a rabies inoculation tag to be issued, at a fee
6 established by the Board for each dog inoculated against
7 rabies.

8 (e) A veterinarian, veterinary technician, or trained
9 shelter vaccine administrator who inoculates a cat that is a
10 companion animal shall issue an inoculation certificate to the
11 owner which shall comply with any registration requirements
12 adopted by the county under Section 3 of this Act. The owner
13 shall pay any fee imposed by the county under Section 3 of this
14 Act. A veterinarian, veterinary technician, or trained shelter
15 vaccine administrator who inoculates a feral cat shall issue
16 an inoculation certificate to the person who presented the
17 feral cat for veterinary care. The registration requirements
18 or any fee imposed by the county under Section 3 of this Act
19 shall not apply to feral cats.

20 (f) Rabies vaccine for use on animals shall be sold or
21 distributed only to and used only by licensed veterinarians.
22 Such rabies vaccine shall be licensed by the United States
23 Department of Agriculture.

24 (g) If a licensed veterinarian determines in writing that
25 a rabies inoculation would compromise an animal's health, then
26 the animal shall be exempt from the rabies inoculation

1 requirement for the period described in this subsection;
2 however, the owner is still responsible for the tag fees. A
3 determination under this subsection is valid for one year but
4 may be annually renewed thereafter by a licensed veterinarian.

5 (h) If a bite occurs from an exempt animal, the exempt
6 animal shall be treated as an unvaccinated animal. If the
7 animal is exempt, the animal shall be re-examined by a
8 licensed veterinarian on no less than an annual basis and be
9 vaccinated against rabies as soon as the animal's health
10 permits.

11 (i) The Department shall adopt rules necessary to
12 implement the changes made to this Section by this amendatory
13 Act of the 104th General Assembly no later than 12 months after
14 the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 104th General
15 Assembly.

16 (Source: P.A. 104-72, eff. 1-1-26.)

17 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect January
18 1, 2027.