

1 State of Arkansas  
2 91st General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2017  
4

As Engrossed: S3/15/17  
**A Bill**

SENATE BILL 553

5 By: Senator J. Cooper  
6 By: Representative D. Douglas  
7

8 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

9 AN ACT TO PROVIDE A CERTIFICATION FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO  
10 ENGAGE IN LIVESTOCK EMBRYO TRANSFER AND TRANSPLANT OR  
11 LIVESTOCK PREGNANCY DETERMINATION; AND FOR OTHER  
12 PURPOSES.  
13

14 **Subtitle**

15 TO PROVIDE A CERTIFICATION FOR  
16 INDIVIDUALS WHO ENGAGE IN LIVESTOCK  
17 EMBRYO TRANSFER OR TRANSPLANT AND  
18 LIVESTOCK PREGNANCY DETERMINATION.  
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22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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24 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 17, Chapter 101, Subchapter 3, is  
25 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

26 17-101-316. Livestock embryo transfer or transplant and livestock  
27 pregnancy determination.

28 (a) Until July 1, 2019, the Veterinary Medical Examining Board is  
29 prohibited from investigating or prosecuting under a board rule or policy an  
30 individual technician who engages in both:

31 (1) Livestock embryo transfer or transplant; and

32 (2) Livestock pregnancy determination.

33 (b) Before engaging in livestock embryo transfer or transplant and  
34 livestock pregnancy determination in the state, an individual technician  
35 shall obtain a certification from the board.

36 (c)(1) An applicant for certification shall submit the following



1 information to the board with an application and application fee of one  
2 thousand dollars (\$1,000):

3 (A)(i) One (1) letter from a licensed veterinarian who has  
4 witnessed the applicant's ability to perform livestock embryo transfer or  
5 transplant and livestock pregnancy determination on at least three (3)  
6 occasions within six (6) consecutive months.

7 (ii) The letter described in subdivision  
8 (c)(1)(A)(i) of this section shall include the dates that the veterinarian  
9 spent with the applicant and an endorsement certifying that the applicant is  
10 proficient in the following areas:

11 (a) Basic knowledge, skills, and abilities  
12 required to proficiently extract, grade, freeze, thaw, and transfer livestock  
13 embryos; and

14 (b) The ability to properly use ultrasound  
15 equipment in determining pregnancy status with at least ninety percent (90%)  
16 accuracy beginning at sixty (60) days of pregnancy and with at least ninety  
17 percent (90%) accuracy when identifying trimester;

18 (B) A record of successfully completing a qualified course  
19 taught by a livestock reproduction specialist on both livestock embryo  
20 transfer and livestock pregnancy determination;

21 (C) Proof that the applicant has at least fifty percent  
22 (50%) financial interest in livestock management equipment, including without  
23 limitation ultrasound equipment, microscope, embryo freezer, and other  
24 required transfer tools; and

25 (D) Proof of membership in either the International Embryo  
26 Transfer Society or the American Embryo Transfer Association.

27 (2) The board shall approve or deny certification within thirty  
28 (30) days of receiving an application.

29 (d)(1) A certification under this section expires after two (2) years.

30 (2) An individual technician shall submit a renewal application  
31 and renewal application fee of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) to the board  
32 along with a record of completion of a continuing education course on bovine  
33 reproduction within the United States of America or Canada.

34 (3) The board shall approve or deny recertification within  
35 thirty (30) days of receiving a renewal application.

36 (e) An embryo transfer technician may only administer to livestock

1 prescription drugs that have been prescribed by a licensed veterinarian who  
2 has a valid veterinary client-patient relationship.

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*/s/J. Cooper*

**APPROVED: 04/06/2017**