

**Proposed Bylaws Amendment #8-2019
Regular Winter Session**

Submitted by
American Association of Avian Pathologists
American Association of Avian Veterinarians
American Association of Bovine Practitioners
American Association of Equine Practitioners
American Association of Food Safety and Public Health Veterinarians
American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners
American Society of Laboratory Animal Practitioners
American Association of Swine Veterinarians
American Association of Veterinary Clinicians
National Association of Federal Veterinarians

CONSTITUENT ALLIED VETERINARY ORGANIZATIONS

Amend Bylaws **Article VII, Section 4. Constituent Allied Veterinary Organizations. C.
Obligation to Maintain Status**

Present and Proposed Wording

(deletions are ~~struckthrough~~; additions are underlined)

- c. **Obligation to Maintain Status.** Constituent Veterinary Allied Organizations must continue to meet the requirements set forth in Article VII, Section 4(a), with the exception of Section 4(a)(6) as noted below, to maintain their status as a Constituent Allied Veterinary Organization and retain their right to representation in the House of Delegates. If the organization is unable to maintain such requirements as of July 1 of each year, the Executive Vice President, or his or her designee, shall notify the organization that it has one year from the end of the summer session of the House of Delegates to meet the eligibility requirements to maintain status describe in this section. If the organization does not demonstrate compliance to maintain status by the beginning of the following summer session, it will lose its representation in the House of Delegates. With respect to the requirement regarding voting members of the AVMA set forth in Article VII, Section 4(a)(6), the following requirements shall apply for purposes of maintaining status in the House of Delegates:
1. If an organization has been continuously represented in the House of Delegates for 10 or more years, since July 8, 1995: (i) ~~its U.S. voting membership must include a minimum of three hundred (300) voting members of the Association, and at least eighty-five percent (85%) of all its U.S. resident voting membership must be voting members of the Association or~~ (ii) at least five hundred (500) of its U.S. resident voting members must be voting members of the Association the requirements for maintaining status in the House of Delegates shall be the organization has not less than 200 voting members of the Association; or
 2. If an organization's application for representation in the House of Delegates as a Constituent Allied Veterinary Organization was accepted ~~any time after July 8, 1995~~ but the Constituent Allied Veterinary Organization has not been continuously represented in the House of Delegates for a minimum of 10 years, a number equal to at least one percent (1%) of all voting members of the Association at the time the organization was admitted to the House of Delegates must be voting members of that organization, and at least eighty-five percent

(85%) of that organization's U.S. resident voting membership must be voting members of the Association.

Statement about the Bylaws Amendment

The proposed Bylaws amendment is an effort to recognize the necessary and historical representation in the House of Delegates (HOD) by Constituent Veterinary Allied Organizations. The proposed Bylaws amendment also is an attempt to apply the same membership requirements for continual representation in the House of Delegates of 10 or more years as are applied to states. The number of AVMA members in a state is used to calculate the voting strength of the state. The voting strength of an allied organization is limited to two (2) however allied organizations should have a minimum number of members to maintain representation in the House of Delegates. We established the number 200 as the minimum number of AVMA members in an organization due to the fact it is obtainable by the current allied organizations who have 10 or more years of representation in the House of Delegates and is consistent with the membership numbers of several of the smaller states in the House of Delegates.

The current requirements for the organizations that joined prior to July 8, 1995 are defined in the Bylaws as a minimum of 300 members with 85% being members of the AVMA (Association) or 500 members. There are sixteen (16) Constituent Veterinary Allied Organizations that joined the House of Delegates prior to July 8, 1995 representing 4% of the voting strength of the House of Delegates. Two (2) organizations have joined the House of Delegates after July 8, 1995 (one in 2013 and the other in 2014) and the requirements outlined in C (2) above would apply to those organizations until they (as well as any new organizations) have had continual representation for 10 or more years.

Currently there are 11 states/regions/territories (21% of the HOD) that have less than 400 members representing 6% of the voting strength of the House of Delegates and of these, 7 states/regions/territories (13% of the HOD) that have less than 300 members representing 4% of the voting strength of the House of Delegates. This group of seven would be comparable to the total voting strength of the allied organizations and is useful for calculating the number of members an allied organization should maintain to satisfy the requirements for representation in the HOD. This group of seven states/regions/territories has an average membership of 222 members.

As stated above, the intent of the bylaws amendment is to align the allied organizations serving 10 or more years to the requirements of states organizations. There is no requirement for state organizations to satisfy a percentage of their members to be AVMA members. Enforcing this requirement on allied organizations imposes an undue burden on those organizations that is not imposed upon states. The effect of this on the smaller allied groups is for them to require their members to be AVMA members which is not imposed by state organizations. Due to industry consolidation, many allied organizations, will see a decreased number of members. Not decreasing the membership requirements to a number attainable by all allied organizations both now and the immediate future risks losing one of those groups that have a long history in the House of Delegates. The requirements for rejoining the House of Delegates would likely be unattainable by such a group resulting in the permanent loss of some of the allied organizations in the future from representation in the House of Delegates.

Constituent Veterinary Allied Organizations represent a significant voice and resource for the House of Delegates. These organizations are seeking to maintain a voice in the House of Delegates, not voting strength. As consolidation in the industry occurs and the possibility of

these organizations having a decreasing number of members, it is important to continue to allow them to have this voice in the House of Delegates by holding them to the same standards that are applied to states while limiting their voting strength. The proposed Bylaws amendment would recognize that the organizations that have had continual representation since July 8, 1995 should remain in the House of Delegates but maintain the requirements for new organizations to join the House of Delegates to maintain the standards that are represented in the Bylaws. Decreasing the requirements for new organizations may have the unintended consequence of significantly increasing the number of organizations represented in the House of Delegates. In addition, organizations should demonstrate a long-standing history of representation and involvement in the House of Delegates prior to requesting a change in membership requirements. Each of the organizations that this bylaws amendment would affect have been represented in the House of Delegates for more than 20 years. The [voting strength](#) and [membership count](#) document for each organization in the House of Delegates are linked to this document for reference.

List of Constituent Veterinary Allied Organizations that joined prior to July 8, 1995:

- American Animal Hospital Association
- American Association of Avian Pathologists
- American Association of Bovine Practitioners
- American Association of Equine Practitioners
- American Association of Feline Practitioners
- American Association of Food Safety Veterinarians
- American Association of Industry Veterinarians
- American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners
- American Association of Swine Veterinarians
- American Association of Veterinary Clinicians
- American Association of Laboratory Animal Practitioners
- Association of Avian Veterinarians
- National Association of Federal Veterinarians
- Society of Theriogenology
- Student AVMA
- Uniformed Services

List of Constituent Veterinary Allied Organizations that joined after July 8, 1995:

- American Academy of Veterinary Acupuncture
- American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association

| | Board of Directors | House Advisory Committee | Reference Committee # | House of Delegates |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Recommend Approval | | | | |
| Recommend Disapproval | X | X | | |
| Recommend Referral to... | | | | |

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|--|--|--|--|--|
| No Recommendation | | | | |
| Recommend Postpone Indefinitely | | | | |

(use this space for additional narrative, if needed)