

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BRIEF

Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance
(Chapter 529)

VETERINARY SURGEONS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 2015 (COMMENCEMENT) NOTICE 2020

INTRODUCTION

The Secretary for Food and Health (“SFH”), by virtue of section 1(2) of the Veterinary Surgeons Registration (Amendment) Ordinance 2015 (“the Amendment Ordinance”), appoints 24 April 2020 as the day on which the first batch of provisions of the Amendment Ordinance come into operation. The Veterinary Surgeons Registration (Amendment) Ordinance 2015 (Commencement) Notice 2020 (“the Notice”) is at **Annex**.

JUSTIFICATIONS

2. Enacted on 26 March 2015, the Amendment Ordinance provides for, among others, the expansion of membership of the Veterinary Surgeons Board (“VSB”) membership from only appointed members to a composition comprising appointed members and members elected from among registered veterinary surgeons, as well as matters for streamlining the complaint-handling procedures of VSB.

3. We plan to commence the Amendment Ordinance in two stages to allow for a smooth transition from the existing VSB to a newly constituted VSB with an expanded membership comprising both appointed and elected members. The latest target timeline is as follows –

<u>Stage 1:</u> To kick start election procedures of six members to the VSB from among registered veterinary surgeons	April 2020
<u>Stage 2:</u> Newly constituted VSB comprising both appointed members and elected members to come into operation in full	Q4 2020

Stage 1

4. Empowered under section 28(1A) of the Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance (Cap. 529) as added by section 13(2) of the Amendment Ordinance, SFH has made the Veterinary Surgeons Board (Election of Members) Regulation (“the Regulation”) on 4 November 2019 to provide for matters concerning the election of members to the VSB. In Stage 1, only provisions related to election of members would commence to enable the conduct of the first election without affecting the membership and operation of the existing VSB.

Stage 2

5. As and when the elected members are in place, the Government will bring the Amendment Ordinance into full operation so that the newly constituted VSB will come into operation.

THE NOTICE

6. The Notice at Annex seeks to bring into effect from 24 April 2020 provisions of the Amendment Ordinance necessary for the election of members to VSB.

LEGISLATIVE TIMETABLE

7. The legislative timetable is as follows –

Publication in the Gazette	21 February 2020
Tabling at the Legislative Council	26 February 2020

ENQUIRY

8. For any enquiries, please contact Miss Yandy Chan, Assistant Secretary for Food and Health, at 3509 8700.

Food and Health Bureau
19 February 2020

**Veterinary Surgeons Registration (Amendment)
Ordinance 2015 (Commencement) Notice 2020**

Under section 1(2) of the Veterinary Surgeons Registration (Amendment) Ordinance 2015 (6 of 2015), I appoint 24 April 2020 as the day on which the following provisions of the Ordinance come into operation—

- (a) Part 1;
- (b) section 3(3) in so far as it relates to the new definitions of *elected member*, *election*, *Election Regulation* and *qualified candidate*;
- (c) section 5 in so far as it relates to the following provisions—
 - (i) the new section 3A(1)(c) (for all purposes relating to the election of the members of the Board referred to in that section);
 - (ii) the new sections 3B(2) and 3E;
- (d) sections 6(3), 7, 8, 13 and 14;
- (e) section 16(4) in so far as it relates to the new section 2D of Schedule 1;
- (f) section 16(10).



Secretary for Food and Health

17 February 2020