

Arizona State Veterinary Medical Examining Board (Board)

Performance Audit and Sunset Review

Board timely issued initial and renewal licenses we reviewed to qualified applicants in fiscal year 2024, but did not resolve some complaints in a timely manner, putting public safety at risk; did not fully comply with some State conflict-of-interest requirements, increasing the risk that employees and Board members had not disclosed substantial interests; and did not review continuing education for license and certificate renewal applicants

Audit purpose

To determine whether the Board issued licenses to qualified applicants in a timely manner, resolved complaints timely, inspected veterinary and animal crematory premises as required by statute, and provided information to the public as statutorily required, and to respond to the 10 statutory sunset factors.

Key findings

- Board issued initial and renewal licenses and certificates to qualified individuals in a timely manner.
- Board did not resolve within 180 days 49 of 159 complaints it investigated in fiscal year 2024.
- Board did not comply with some State conflict-of-interest requirements, such as not including all statutorily required disclosures on its disclosure form or maintaining all disclosures of substantial interests in a single special file as required by statute.
- Board did not review/validate continuing education prior to issuing licenses and certificates, nor did it have a process to audit licensees and certificate holders' compliance with continuing education requirements on a random sample basis.

Key recommendations to the Board

- Investigate and resolve complaints within 180 days.
- Use a conflict-of-interest disclosure form that requires disclosures of all substantial interests for Board members, committee members, employees and their relatives; and store all substantial interest disclosures, including disclosure forms and meeting minutes, in a special file available for public inspection.
- Establish and implement procedures for verifying that renewal applicants have met continuing education requirements, such as by developing and implementing a random audit process to verify compliance.