

Tab 1	SB 754 by DiCeglie ; Identical to H 00377 Heated Tobacco Products
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Tab 2	SB 796 by Bradley ; Identical to H 00805 Veterinary Medicine
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The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

REGULATED INDUSTRIES

Senator Bradley, Chair
Senator Pizzo, Vice Chair

MEETING DATE: Monday, January 12, 2026

TIME: 4:00—6:00 p.m.

PLACE: Pat Thomas Committee Room, 412 Knott Building

MEMBERS: Senator Bradley, Chair; Senator Pizzo, Vice Chair; Senators Bernard, Boyd, Bracy Davis, Brodeur, Burgess, Calatayud, and Mayfield

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
1	SB 754 DiCeglie (Identical H 377)	Heated Tobacco Products; Revising the definition of the term "cigarette"; revising the definition of the term "tobacco products"; defining the term "heated tobacco product", etc. RI 01/12/2026 Favorable FT AP	Favorable Yeas 9 Nays 0
2	SB 796 Bradley (Identical H 805, Compare CS/H 607, H 871, S 1382)	Veterinary Medicine; Citing this act as the "Veterinary Workforce Innovation Act"; revising the membership of the Board of Veterinary Medicine; providing requirements for veterinary professional associates, veterinary technicians, and veterinary technologists to receive certificates of registration from the Department of Business and Professional Regulation; authorizing the department to suspend the registration of a veterinary professional associate, veterinary technician, or veterinary technologist upon a certain determination by the Board of Veterinary Medicine; providing that a supervising licensed veterinarian is liable for any acts or omissions by certain persons under his or her supervision and control, etc. RI 01/12/2026 Fav/CS AEG RC	Fav/CS Yeas 9 Nays 0

Other Related Meeting Documents

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Regulated Industries

BILL: SB 754

INTRODUCER: Senator DiCeglie

SUBJECT: Heated Tobacco Products

DATE: January 9, 2026

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Oxamendi	Imhof	RI	Favorable
2.			FT	
3.			AP	

I. Summary:

SB 754 exempts heated tobacco products from the taxes on cigarettes and other tobacco products in ch. 210, F.S.

The bill defines the term “heated tobacco product” to mean “a product containing tobacco designed for use in an electronic device with a heat source that does not involve any form of burning or combustion during ordinary conditions of use and which produces an inhalable aerosol by heating the tobacco but does not produce any smoke.”

The bill excludes heated tobacco products from the definition for the term “cigarette,” in the context of the taxation of tobacco products under part I of ch. 210, F.S., and from the definition for the term “tobacco products” in the context of the taxation of tobacco products other than cigarettes and cigars. By excluding heated tobacco products from the meaning of cigarettes and other tobacco products, heated tobacco products would not be subject to taxation as cigarettes or other tobacco products under parts I and II of ch. 210, F.S., respectively.

A tax and a surcharge are imposed on cigarettes at different rates depending on the weight of the tobacco or the number of cigarettes in a carton. Under current law, tobacco products other than cigarettes, e.g., products such as snuff or chewing tobacco, are taxed at the rate of 25 percent of the wholesale sales price. A surcharge tax is also imposed on those products at the rate of 60 percent of the wholesale sales price.

The bill renames part II of ch. 210, F.S., from “Tax on Tobacco Products other than Cigarettes or Cigars,” to “Tax on Tobacco Products other than Cigarettes, Heated Tobacco Products, or Cigars.”

The bill subjects heated tobacco products to the same delivery requirements that are applicable under current law to other tobacco products sold by mail order, the Internet, or other remote sales, including age verification requirements.

The bill amends the definition for the term “tobacco product” in s. 569.002(8), F.S., relating to the regulation of retail tobacco permit dealers, to include heated tobacco products. Under the bill, persons who engage in the retail sale of heated tobacco products must have a retail tobacco products dealer permit issued by the Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.

The Revenue Estimating Conference has determined that there was no zero fiscal impact.

II. Present Situation:

Regulation of Tobacco Products and Nicotine Dispensing Devices

The Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco (division) within the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) is the state agency responsible for the regulation and enforcement of tobacco products under part I of ch. 569, F.S., and nicotine products under part II of ch. 569, F.S., and the collections of taxes under ch. 210, F.S.

Tobacco Products Definitions

Section 210.01(1), F.S., defines the term “cigarette” to mean:

any roll for smoking, except one of which the tobacco is fully naturally fermented, without regard to the kind of tobacco or other substances used in the inner roll or the nature or composition of the material in which the roll is wrapped, which is made wholly or in part of tobacco irrespective of size or shape and whether such tobacco is flavored, adulterated or mixed with any other ingredient.

Section 569.002(6), F.S., defines the term “tobacco products” to include loose tobacco leaves and products made from tobacco leaves, in whole or in part, and cigarette wrappers, which can be used for smoking, sniffing, or chewing, in the context of the taxation of cigarettes under part I of ch. 210, F.S.

Section 210.25(12), F.S., provides a separate definition for the term “tobacco products” in the context of the taxation of tobacco products other than cigarettes or cigars. It provides for the licensing of tobacco product manufacturers, importers, exporters, distributing agents, or wholesale dealers under part II of ch. 210, F.S. In this context, the term “tobacco products” means:

loose tobacco suitable for smoking; snuff; snuff flour; cavendish; plug and twist tobacco; fine cuts and other chewing tobaccos; shorts; refuse scraps; clippings, cuttings, and sweepings of tobacco, and other kinds and forms of

tobacco prepared in such manner as to be suitable for chewing; but “tobacco products” does not include cigarettes, as defined by s. 210.01(1), or cigars.

The definition of “tobacco products” in s. 569.002(6), F.S., is limited to the regulation of tobacco products by the division under ch. 569, F.S., and does not affect the taxation of such products under ch. 210, F.S.

Taxation of Tobacco Products Other than Cigarettes or Cigars

Part II of ch. 210, F.S., imposes a tax and a surcharge tax on tobacco products other than cigarettes or cigars. Cigarettes are taxed under part I of ch. 210, F.S. Cigars are not subject to a tax.

Section 210.30(1), F.S., imposes a tax on tobacco products other than cigarettes or cigars and upon any person engaged in business as a distributor of such tobacco products at the rate of 25 percent of the wholesale sales price. The tax is levied at the time the distributor:

- Brings or causes to be brought into Florida from without the state tobacco products for sale;
- Makes, manufactures, or fabricates tobacco products in Florida for sale in Florida; or
- Ships or transports tobacco products to retailers in Florida, to be sold by those retailers.

If the tax is not paid by the distributor, the tax is imposed upon the use or storage by consumers of such tobacco products in Florida and upon consumers at the rate of 25 percent of the cost of such tobacco products.

Section 210.276(1), F.S., imposes a surcharge tax on tobacco products other than cigarettes or cigars and upon any person engaged in business as a distributor of such tobacco products at the rate of 60 percent of the wholesale sales price. The surcharge is levied at the same time the tax in s. 210.30, F.S., is levied on the distributor.

The surcharge is not levied on tobacco products shipped or transported outside Florida for sale or use outside Florida.

Section 210.25(5), F.S., defines the term “distributor” to mean:

- Any person engaged in the business of selling tobacco products in this state who brings, or causes to be brought, into this state from outside the state any tobacco products for sale;
- Any person who makes, manufactures, or fabricates tobacco products in this state for sale in Florida; or
- Any person engaged in the business of selling tobacco outside this state who ships or transports tobacco products to retailers in this state to be sold by those retailers.

Section 210.25(14), F.S., defines the term “wholesale sales price” to mean the sum of:

- The full price paid by the distributor to acquire the tobacco products, including charges by the seller for the cost of materials, the cost of labor and service, charges for transportation and delivery, the federal excise tax, and any other charge, even if the charge is listed as a separate item on the invoice paid by the distributor, exclusive of any diminution by volume or other discounts, including a discount provided to a distributor by an affiliate; and

- The federal excise tax paid by the distributor on the tobacco products if the tax is not included in the full price.

Retail Tobacco Products Dealer Permits

A person must obtain a retail tobacco products dealer permit from the division for each place of business where tobacco products are sold, including sales made through a vending machine.¹ The fee for an annual permit is established by the division in rule at an amount to cover the regulatory costs of the program, not to exceed \$50. The fees are deposited into the Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Trust Fund within the DBPR.²

Mail Order, Internet, Other Remote Sales of Tobacco Products, and Tobacco Products Permits

Section 210.095(5), F.S., provides requirements for the delivery of mail order, Internet, and other remote sales of tobacco products, including age verification requirements. All such deliveries are defined as “delivery sales.”³

Specific notice and shipping requirements are provided for all delivery sales, whether in-state or out-of-state. Each person who mails, ships, or otherwise delivers tobacco products in connection with an order for a delivery sale is required to:

- Include, as part of the shipping documents, in a clear and conspicuous manner, the following statement: “Tobacco Products: Florida law prohibits shipping to individuals who are not 21 years of age or older and requires the payment of all applicable taxes.”
- Use a method of mailing, shipping, or delivery which obligates the delivery service to:
 - Require the signature of an adult who resides at the delivery address and obtain proof of the legal minimum purchase age of the individual accepting delivery, if the individual appears to be under 30 years of age.
 - Require proof that the individual accepting delivery is either the addressee or the adult designated by the addressee, in the form of a valid, government-issued identification card bearing a photograph of the individual who signs to accept delivery of the shipping container.
- Provide to the delivery service, if such service is used, evidence of full compliance with requirements for the collection and remittance of all taxes imposed on tobacco products by this state with respect to the delivery sale.⁴

If a person accepts a purchase order for a delivery sale and delivers the tobacco products without using a delivery service, the person must comply with all of the requirements that apply to a delivery service.⁵ Before making sales or shipping orders, entities must provide specific notice to

¹ Section 569.003, F.S.

² Section 569.003(1)(c), F.S.

³ Section 210.095(1)(b), F.S.

⁴ Section 210.095(5), F.S.

⁵ *Id.*

the division as to shipper and receiver, with monthly reporting.⁶ There are requirements specific to purchase orders.⁷

Section 210.095(8), F.S., provides that the penalty for the following violations of the delivery sale requirements is a misdemeanor of the second degree:⁸

- A delivery sale delivers tobacco products, on behalf of a delivery service, to an individual who is under 21 years of age.
- A violation of any provision in s. 210.095, F.S., by an individual who is under 21 years of age.

Section 210.15, F.S., requires every person, firm, or corporation desiring to engage in business as a manufacturer, importer, exporter, distributing agent, or wholesale dealer of cigarettes within Florida to have a permit issued by the division. To qualify for a permit, a person must be of good moral character and not less than 21 years of age to qualify. In addition, permits may be issued only to corporations whose officers are of good moral character and not less than 21 years of age.⁹

Nicotine Products

Section 569.31(3), F.S., defines the term “nicotine dispensing device” to mean:

any product that employs an electronic, chemical, or mechanical means to produce vapor or aerosol from a nicotine product, including, but not limited to, an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe, or other similar device or product, any replacement cartridge for such device, and any other container of nicotine in a solution or other form intended to be used with or within an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe, or other similar device or product.

Section 569.31(4), F.S., defines the term “nicotine product” to mean:

any product that contains nicotine, including liquid nicotine, which is intended for human consumption, whether inhaled, chewed, absorbed, dissolved, or ingested by any means. The term also includes any nicotine dispensing device. The term does not include a:

- (a) Tobacco product, as defined in s. 569.002, F.S.;
 - (b) Product regulated as a drug or device by the United States Food and Drug Administration under Chapter V of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act; or
 - (c) Product that contains incidental nicotine.
- (Emphasis added.)

Nicotine products, including nicotine dispensing devices such as electronic cigarettes (also commonly known as “vapes”), may contain nicotine, which comes from tobacco, but they do not

⁶ Section 210.095(6), F.S.

⁷ Section 210.095(7), F.S.

⁸ Section 775.082, F.S., provides that the penalty for a misdemeanor of the second degree is punishable by a term of imprisonment not to exceed 60 days. Section 775.083, F.S., provides that the penalty for a misdemeanor of the second degree is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.

⁹ Section 210.15(2)(b), F.S.

contain tobacco. It is a non-tobacco “e-liquid” that is heated and aerosolized for inhalation by the user of the device.¹⁰

Retail Nicotine Products Dealer Permit

A retail nicotine products dealer permit from the division is required for each place of business where nicotine products are sold, including sales made through a vending machine.¹¹ There is no fee for the permit. A person must be 21 years of age to qualify for a retail nicotine products dealer permit.¹²

Heated Tobacco Products

Heated tobacco products heat a compressed stick or pod of tobacco and produce an inhalable vapor or aerosol. These products do not produce smoke because the tobacco is not burned or ignited.¹³ It is not clear that heated tobacco products are subject to taxation under ch. 210, F.S., as cigarettes or other tobacco products because the definitions for the terms cigarettes and tobacco products under ch. 210, F.S., do not appear to describe heated tobacco products, e.g., heated tobacco products are not smoked or chewed.

According to the U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, heated tobacco products heat processed tobacco leaf, allowing users to inhale nicotine into their lungs. Some brands of heated tobacco products permitted for sale in the United States include IQOS and Eclipse.¹⁴ IQOS is manufactured by Philip Morris International.¹⁵

The Department of Business and Professional regulation issued a declaratory statement on March 12, 2025, responding to a petition by Philip Morris International, Inc. & Affiliates. Philip Morris requested a declaratory statement under s. 120. 565, F.S., to determine whether the IQOS Heating System was taxable as a cigarette under s. 210.01(1), F.S., or as a tobacco product under s. 210.25(12), F.S. The department determined that it was not taxable as a cigarette or as a tobacco product.¹⁶

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill exempts heated tobacco products from the taxes on tobacco products in ch. 210, F.S.

The definition of the term “cigarette” in s. 210.01(1), F.S., is revised by the bill to provide that the term does not include heated tobacco products. By excluding heated tobacco products from

¹⁰ American Cancer Society, E-cigarettes and Vaping at: <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/risk-prevention/tobacco/e-cigarettes-vaping/what-do-we-know-about-e-cigarettes.html> (last visited Jan. 6, 2026).

¹¹ Section 569.32, F.S.

¹² Section 569.32(2)(a), F.S.

¹³ Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, *Heated Tobacco Products, Definition and Global Market*, available at: https://assets.tobaccofreekids.org/global/pdfs/en/HTP_definition_en.pdf (last visited Jan. 6, 2026).

¹⁴ See U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/other-tobacco-products/heated-tobacco-products.html>. (Last visited January 7, 2026).

¹⁵ See <https://www.pmi.com/our-business/smoke-free-products/heated-tobacco-products/>. (Last visited January 7, 2026).

¹⁶ *In Re: Petition for Declaratory Statement by Philip Morris International, Inc. & Affiliates*, DBPR Case No. 2025-014271 (March 12, 2025).

the meaning of cigarettes, the bill does not tax heated tobacco products as cigarettes under part I of ch. 210, F.S.

The bill also revises the definition of the term “tobacco products” in s. 210.095(1)(i), F.S., to include heated tobacco products. By including heated tobacco products within the meaning of tobacco products in this provision, the bill applies the delivery sale requirements in this section to heated tobacco products.

The bill renames part II of ch. 210, F.S., from “Tax on Tobacco Products other than Cigarettes or Cigars,” to “Tax on Tobacco Products other than Cigarettes, Heated Tobacco Products, or Cigars.”

The bill amends s. 210.25, F.S., to define the term “heated tobacco product” to mean “a product containing tobacco designed for use in an electronic device with a heat source that does not involve any form of burning or combustion during ordinary conditions of use and which produces an inhalable aerosol by heating the tobacco but does not produce any smoke.”

The bill changes the term “tobacco products” in s. 210.25, F.S., to exclude heated tobacco products. By excluding heated tobacco products from the meaning of the term “tobacco products,” heated tobacco products would not be subject to taxation as tobacco products under part II of ch. 210, F.S.

The bill amends the definition for the term “tobacco product” in s. 569.002(8), F.S., to include heated tobacco products as defined in s. 210.25, F.S. By including heated tobacco products within the definition of the term “tobacco product” in s. 569.002(8), F.S., the bill requires a retail tobacco products dealer permit for the retail sale of heated tobacco products. Under current law, the sale of heated tobacco products, which do not produce smoke but do contain aerosolized nicotine, requires a retail nicotine products dealer permit for which there is no fee.

The bill amends s. 951.22(1), F.S., relating to county detention facilities and contraband articles, to correct a cross-reference.

The bill also reenacts the definition for the term “nicotine product” in s. 569.31(4), F.S., to incorporate the revision in the bill to the definition of the term “tobacco product” in s. 569.002(8), F.S.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

Section 19(a), Article VII of the State Constitution limits the authority of the legislature to enact legislation that imposes a new state tax or fee by requiring such legislation to be approved by a two-thirds vote in each chamber of the legislature. Section 19(e), Article VII of the Florida Constitution provides that a state tax or fee imposed, authorized, or raised must be contained in a separate bill that contains no other subject. By including heated tobacco products within the definition of the term “tobacco product” in s. 569.002(8), F.S., SB 754 requires a retail tobacco products dealer permit for the retail sale of heated tobacco products. The annual fee for a retail tobacco dealer permit may not exceed \$50.¹⁷ By imposing a permit fee for the retail sale of a product for which the permit fee does not currently apply, the bill may be imposing a new fee and may violate the single-subject requirement of s. 19(a), Article VII of the State Constitution.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

The bill exempts heated tobacco products from the taxes and surcharge taxes in parts I and II of ch. 210, F.S.

The bill requires retail dealers of heated tobacco products to obtain a retail tobacco dealer permit, which may cost not more than \$50 for the annual permit.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The Revenue Estimating Conference has determined that there was no fiscal impact.¹⁸

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

¹⁷ Section 569.003(1)(c), F.S.

¹⁸ Revenue Estimating Conference, *Revenue Impact Results for HB 377 and SB 754*, Dec. 5, 2025, available at: https://edr.state.fl.us/Content/conferences/revenueimpact/archives/2026/_pdf/page99-100.pdf (last visited Jan. 6, 2026).

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 210.01, 210.095, 210.25, 569.002, 951.22, and 569.31.

IX. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

By Senator DiCeglie

18-00936-26 2026754

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to heated tobacco products; amending

3 s. 210.01, F.S.; revising the definition of the term

4 "cigarette"; amending s. 210.095, F.S.; revising the

5 definition of the term "tobacco products"; renaming

6 part II of ch. 210, F.S., entitled "Tax on Tobacco

7 Products other than Cigarettes or Cigars," as "Tax on

8 Tobacco Products other than Cigarettes, Heated Tobacco

9 Products, or Cigars"; amending s. 210.25, F.S.;

10 defining the term "heated tobacco product"; conforming

11 a provision to changes made by the act; amending s.

12 569.002, F.S.; revising the definition of the term

13 "tobacco products"; amending s. 951.22, F.S.;

14 conforming a cross-reference; reenacting s. 569.31(5),

15 F.S., relating to definitions, to incorporate the

16 amendment made to s. 569.002, F.S., in a reference

17 thereto; providing an effective date.

18

19 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

20

21 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 210.01, Florida

22 Statutes, is amended to read:

23 210.01 Definitions.—When used in this part the following

24 words shall have the meaning herein indicated:

25 (1) "Cigarette" means any roll for smoking, except one of

26 which the tobacco is fully naturally fermented, without regard

27 to the kind of tobacco or other substances used in the inner

28 roll or the nature or composition of the material in which the

29 roll is wrapped, which is made wholly or in part of tobacco

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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30 irrespective of size or shape and whether such tobacco is

31 flavored, adulterated or mixed with any other ingredient. The

32 term does not include a heated tobacco product as defined by s.

33 210.25.

34 Section 2. Paragraph (i) of subsection (1) of section

35 210.095, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

36 210.095 Mail order, Internet, and remote sales of tobacco

37 products; age verification.—

38 (1) For purposes of this section, the term:

39 (i) "Tobacco products" means all cigarettes, smoking

40 tobacco, snuff, fine-cut chewing tobacco, cut and granulated

41 tobacco, cavendish, ~~and~~ plug or twist tobacco, and heated

42 tobacco products as defined in s. 210.25.

43 Section 3. Part II of chapter 210, Florida Statutes,

44 entitled "Tax on Tobacco Products other than Cigarettes or

45 Cigars," is renamed "Tax on Tobacco Products other than

46 Cigarettes, Heated Tobacco Products, or Cigars."

47 Section 4. Present subsections (6) through (14) of section

48 210.25, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (7)

49 through (15), respectively, a new subsection (6) is added to

50 that section, and present subsection (12) of that section is

51 amended, to read:

52 210.25 Definitions.—As used in this part:

53 (6) "Heated tobacco product" means a product containing

54 tobacco designed for use in an electronic device with a heat

55 source that does not involve any form of burning or combustion

56 during ordinary conditions of use and which produces an

57 inhalable aerosol by heating the tobacco but does not produce

58 any smoke.

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

18-00936-26 2026754
 59 (13)-(12) "Tobacco products" means loose tobacco suitable
 60 for smoking; snuff; snuff flour; cavendish; plug and twist
 61 tobacco; fine cuts and other chewing tobaccos; shorts; refuse
 62 scraps; clippings, cuttings, and sweepings of tobacco, and other
 63 kinds and forms of tobacco prepared in such manner as to be
 64 suitable for chewing; but "tobacco products" does not include
 65 cigarettes, as defined by s. 210.01(1), heated tobacco products,
 66 or cigars.
 67 Section 5. Subsection (8) of section 569.002, Florida
 68 Statutes, is amended to read:
 69 569.002 Definitions.—As used in this part, the term:
 70 (8) "Tobacco products" includes loose tobacco leaves, and
 71 products made from tobacco leaves, in whole or in part, ~~and~~
 72 cigarette wrappers, which can be used for smoking, sniffing, or
 73 chewing, and heated tobacco products as defined in s. 210.25.
 74 Section 6. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section
 75 951.22, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 76 951.22 County detention facilities; contraband articles.—
 77 (1) It is unlawful, except through regular channels as duly
 78 authorized by the sheriff or officer in charge, to introduce
 79 into or possess upon the grounds of any county detention
 80 facility as defined in s. 951.23 or to give to or receive from
 81 any inmate of any such facility wherever said inmate is located
 82 at the time or to take or to attempt to take or send therefrom
 83 any of the following articles, which are contraband:
 84 (d) Any tobacco products as defined in s. 210.25 ~~or~~
 85 210.25(12).
 86 Section 7. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment
 87 made by this act to section 569.002, Florida Statutes, in a

18-00936-26 2026754
 88 reference thereto, subsection (5) of section 569.31, Florida
 89 Statutes, is reenacted to read:
 90 569.31 Definitions.—As used in this part, the term:
 91 (5) "Nicotine product" means any product that contains
 92 nicotine, including liquid nicotine, which is intended for human
 93 consumption, whether inhaled, chewed, absorbed, dissolved, or
 94 ingested by any means. The term also includes any nicotine
 95 dispensing device. The term does not include a:
 96 (a) Tobacco product, as defined in s. 569.002;
 97 (b) Product regulated as a drug or device by the United
 98 States Food and Drug Administration under Chapter V of the
 99 Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act; or
 100 (c) Product that contains incidental nicotine.
 101 Section 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.



THE FLORIDA SENATE
SENATOR NICK DICEGLIE
District 18

Ben Albritton
President of the Senate

Jason Brodeur
President Pro Tempore

January 6th, 2026

Dear Chair Bradley,

I respectfully request that **SB 754: Heated Tobacco Products** be placed on the agenda of the Committee on Regulated Industries. If my office can be of any assistance to the committee, please do not hesitate to contact me at DiCeglie.Nick@flsenate.gov or (850) 487-5018. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nick DiCeglie".

Nick DiCeglie

State Senator, District 18

Proudly Serving Pinellas County

Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development,
Chair ~ Governmental Oversight and Accountability, Vice Chair ~ Appropriations ~
Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government ~
Commerce and Tourism ~ Environment and Natural Resources ~ Judiciary ~ Rules ~
Joint Select Committee on Collective Bargaining

1/12/2026

APPEARANCE RECORD

0754

Meeting Date

Bill Number or Topic

Regulated Industries

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Scott Shalley

850-545-2673

Name

Phone

227 S. Adams

Scott@FRF.org

Address

Email

Street

Tallahassee

FL

32301

City

State

Zip

Speaking: ☐ For☐ Against☐ Information**OR**Waive Speaking: ☒

In Support

☐ Against☐I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.☒I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

Florida Retail Federation

☐I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. § 11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Regulated Industries

BILL: CS/SB 796

INTRODUCER: Regulated Industries Committee and Senator Bradley

SUBJECT: Veterinary Medicine

DATE: January 14, 2026

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Baird	Imhof	RI	Fav/CS
2.			AEG	
3.			RC	

I. Summary:

SB 796, titled the “Veterinary Workforce and Innovation Act,” amends the regulatory framework for veterinary medicine in Florida, creating a new level of veterinary professional, a “veterinary professional associate,” that would be registered with the state and allowed to work under a licensed veterinarian.

The bill defines the new position and specifies a formal registration process, prohibitions, and duties and actions, for the newly created “veterinary professional associate.”

The bill increases the duration for prescriptions based solely on telehealth evaluations from **1 month** to **6 months** for flea and tick medication and from **14 days** to **30 days** for other animal drugs.

Additionally, the bill amends the exemptions in chapter 474 of the Florida Statutes to include the newly created position.

The bill takes effect January 1, 2027.

II. Present Situation:

Practice of Veterinary Medicine

The Board of Veterinary Medicine (board) within the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) implements the provisions of ch. 474, F.S., relating to veterinary medical practice (practice act). The purpose of the practice act is to ensure that every veterinarian

practicing in this state meets minimum requirements for safe practices to protect public health and safety.¹

A “veterinarian” is a health care practitioner licensed by the board to engage in the practice of veterinary medicine in Florida² and they are subject to disciplinary action from the board for various violations of the practice act.³

The practice of “veterinary medicine” is the diagnosis of medical conditions of animals, and the prescribing or administering of medicine and treatment to animals for the prevention, cure, or relief of a wound, fracture, bodily injury, or disease, or holding oneself out as performing any of these functions.⁴

Veterinary medicine includes, with respect to animals:⁵

- Surgery;
- Acupuncture;
- Obstetrics;
- Dentistry;
- Physical therapy;
- Radiology;
- Theriogenology (reproductive medicine); and
- Other branches or specialties of veterinary medicine.

Any permanent or mobile establishment where a licensed veterinarian practices must have a premises permit issued by the DBPR.⁶ Each person to whom a veterinary license or premises permit is issued must conspicuously display such document in her or his office, place of business, or place of employment in a permanent or mobile veterinary establishment or clinic.⁷

By virtue of accepting a license to practice veterinary medicine in Florida, a veterinarian consents to:

- render a handwriting sample to an agent of the DBPR and, further, to have waived any objections to its use as evidence against her or him.
- waive the confidentiality and authorize the preparation and release of medical reports pertaining to the mental or physical condition of the licensee when the DBPR has reason to believe that a violation of this chapter has occurred and when the DBPR issues an order, based on the need for additional information, to produce such medical reports for the time period relevant to the complaint.⁸

¹ Section 474.201, F.S.

² Section 474.202(11), F.S.

³ Sections 474.213 and 474.214, F.S.

⁴ Section 474.202(9), F.S. Also included is the determination of the health, fitness, or soundness of an animal, and the performance of any manual procedure for the diagnosis or treatment of pregnancy or fertility or infertility of animals.

⁵ Section 474.202(13), F.S. Section 474.202(1), F.S., defines “animal” as “any mammal other than a human being or any bird, amphibian, fish, or reptile, wild or domestic, living or dead.”

⁶ Section 474.215(1), F.S.

⁷ Section 474.216, F.S.

⁸ Section 474.2185, F.S.

For Fiscal Year 2023-2024, there were 13,392 actively licensed veterinarians in Florida. The DBPR received 611 complaints, which resulted in 44 disciplinary actions.⁹

Veterinary Telehealth

In 2024, the Legislature created and passed the Providing Equity in Telehealth Services Act (PETS act), establishing a framework for the practice of veterinary telehealth.¹⁰ The PETS act allows veterinarians who hold current licenses to practice veterinary telehealth.¹¹

Limitations

The PETS act puts certain limitations on what veterinarians are able to do via telehealth. The PETS act requires that a veterinarian:

- Provide certain information to the client, including the veterinarian's name, license number and contact information;
- Must prescribe all drugs and medications in accordance with federal and state laws;
- May not order or prescribe medicinal drugs or drugs as defined in s. 465.003, F.S., approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for human use, or compounded antibacterial, antifungal, antiviral, or antiparasitic medications, unless the veterinarian has conducted an in-person physical examination of the animal or made medically appropriate and timely visits within the past year to the premises where the animal is kept;
- May not use veterinary telehealth to prescribe a controlled substance as defined in ch. 893, F.S. (Drug Abuse Preventions and Control), unless the veterinarian has conducted an in-person physical examination of the animal or made medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animal is kept;
- May not prescribe a drug or other medication for use on a horse engaged in racing or training at a facility under the jurisdiction of the Florida Gaming Control Commission or on a horse that is a covered horse, as defined in the federal Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act, 15 U.S.C., ss. 3051 et seq.

Telehealth Prescriptions

Prescriptions based solely on a telehealth evaluation may be issued for up to **1 month** for products labeled solely for flea and tick control and up to **14 days** of treatment for other animal drugs.¹² Prescriptions based solely on a telehealth evaluation may not be renewed without an in-person examination.¹³

⁹ Department of Business and Professional Regulation, *Division of Professions Annual Report Fiscal Year 2023-2024*, <https://www2.myfloridalicense.com/os/documents/Division%20Annual%20Report%20FY%2023-24.pdf>, (last visited January 14, 2026).

¹⁰ Ch. 2024-260, Laws of Fla. (codified at section 474.2021, F.S., effective July 1, 2024).

¹¹ *Id.* Florida law requires the practice of telehealth to be consistent with a veterinarian's scope of practice and the prevailing professional standard of practice for a veterinarian who provides in-person veterinary services to patients in Florida, and who must employ sound, professional judgment to determine whether using veterinary telehealth is an appropriate method for delivering medical advice or treatment to the patient.

¹² Section 474.2021, F.S.

¹³ *Id.*

Immediate Supervision

Currently, certain individuals that are not licensed doctors of veterinary medicine (employees, veterinary nurses, students, preceptors, interns, post-exam graduates) can provide some level of care to animals if they are under immediate supervision.¹⁴ The practice act defines “immediate supervision” to mean that a “licensed doctor of veterinary medicine is on the premises whenever veterinary services are being provided.”¹⁵

Veterinary tasks requiring immediate supervision include:¹⁶

- Administering anesthesia and tranquilization by a veterinary aide, nurse, laboratory technician, intern, or other employee of a licensed veterinarian.
- Administering certain vaccinations by a veterinary aide, nurse, technician, intern, or other employee of a licensed veterinarian which is not specifically prohibited.

Responsible Supervision

The term “responsible supervision” is defined in s. 474.202(10), F.S., as the “control, direction, and regulation by a licensed doctor of veterinary medicine of the duties involving veterinary services” delegated to unlicensed personnel. Under the DBPR rules the following tasks may be performed (under responsible supervision) without the licensed veterinarian on the premises:¹⁷

- Administering medication and treatment, excluding vaccinations, as directed by the licensed veterinarian; and
- Obtaining samples and the performance of those diagnostic tests, including radiographs, as directed by the licensed veterinarian.

Exemptions

Ten categories of persons are exempt from complying with ch. 474, F.S.:¹⁸

- Faculty veterinarians with assigned teaching duties at accredited¹⁹ institutions;

¹⁴ Section 474.207(5), F.S.

¹⁵ Section 474.202(5), F.S.

¹⁶ Fla. Admin. Code R. 61G18-17.005, provides that all tasks that may be delegated to a veterinary aide, nurse, laboratory technician, intern, or other employee of a licensed veterinarian shall be performed only under the “immediate supervision” of a licensed veterinarian as that phrase is defined in subsection 474.202(5), F.S., with the exception of the following tasks which may be performed without the licensed veterinarian on the premises.

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ Section 474.203, F.S.

¹⁹ Sections 474.203(1) and (2), F.S., provide that accreditation of a school or college must be granted by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Council on Education, or the AVMA Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates. The AVMA Council on Education is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) as the accrediting body for schools and programs that offer the professional Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree (or its equivalent) in the United States and Canada, and may also approve foreign veterinary colleges. See <https://www.avma.org/professionaldevelopment/education/accreditation/colleges/pages/coe-pp-overview-of-the-coe.aspx> (last visited January 14, 2026). The AVMA Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates assists graduates of foreign, non-accredited schools to meet the requirement of most states that such foreign graduates successfully complete an educational equivalency assessment certification program. See <https://www.avma.org/professionaldevelopment/education/foreign/pages/ecfv-g-about-us.aspx> (last visited January 14, 2026). In turn, the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, a national advocate for regulation of academic quality through

- Intern/resident veterinarians at accredited institutions who are graduates of an accredited institution, but only until they complete or terminate their training;
- Students in a school or college of veterinary medicine who perform assigned duties by an instructor (no accreditation of the institution is required), or work as preceptors²⁰ (if the preceptorship is required for graduation from an accredited institution);
- Doctors of veterinary medicine employed by a state agency or the United States Government while actually engaged in the performance of official duties at the installations for which the services were engaged;
- Persons or their employees caring for the persons' own animals, as well as part-time or temporary employees, or independent contractors, who are hired by an owner to help with herd management and animal husbandry tasks (excluding immunization or treatment of diseases that are communicable to humans and significant to public health) for herd/flock animals, with certain limitations; however, the exemption is not available to a person licensed as a veterinarian in another state and temporarily practicing in Florida, or convicted of violating ch. 828, F.S., on animal cruelty, or of any similar offense in another jurisdiction, and employment may not be provided for the purpose of circumventing ch. 474, F.S.;
- Certain entities or persons²¹ that conduct experiments and scientific research on animals as part of the development of pharmaceuticals, biologicals, serums, or treatment methods or techniques to diagnose or treat of human ailments, or in the study and development of methods and techniques applicable to the practice of veterinary medicine;
- Veterinary aides, nurses, laboratory technicians, preceptors, or other employees of a licensed veterinarian, who administer medication or provide help or support under the responsible supervision of a licensed veterinarian;
- Certain non-Florida veterinarians who are licensed and actively practicing veterinary medicine in another state, are board certified in a specialty recognized by the board and are assisting upon request of a Florida-licensed veterinarian to consult on the treatment of a specific animal or on the treatment on a specific case of the animals of a single owner;
- Employees, agents, or contractors of public or private animal shelters, humane organizations, or animal control agencies operated by a humane organization, county, municipality, or incorporated political subdivision, whose work is confined solely to implanting radio frequency identification device microchips in dogs and cats in accordance with s. 823.15, F.S.;
- ²² and
- Paramedics or emergency medical technicians providing emergency medical care to a police canine²³ injured in the line of duty while at the scene of the emergency or while the police canine is being transported to a veterinary clinic or similar facility.

accreditation, is an association of degree-granting colleges and universities. See <http://chea.org/about> (last visited January 14, 2026).

²⁰ A preceptor is a skilled practitioner or faculty member, who directs, teaches, supervises, and evaluates students in a clinical setting to allow practical experience with patients. See

<https://www.merriam-Webster.com/dictionary/preceptor#medicalDictionary> (last visited January 14, 2026).

²¹ See s. 474.203(6), F.S., which states that the exemption applies to “[s]tate agencies, accredited schools, institutions, foundations, business corporations or associations, physicians licensed to practice medicine and surgery in all its branches, graduate doctors of veterinary medicine, or persons under the direct supervision thereof”

²² Section 823.15(5), F.S., which authorizes such persons to perform microchipping of dogs and cats.

²³ Section 401.254, F.S., defines the term “police canine” as “any canine that is owned, or the service of which is employed, by a state or local law enforcement agency, a correctional agency, a fire department, a special fire district, or the State Fire Marshal for the principal purpose of aiding in the detection of criminal activity, flammable materials, or missing persons; the enforcement of laws; the investigation of fires; or the apprehension of offenders.” A paramedic or an emergency medical

The Board of Veterinary Medicine

The board consists of seven members that are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.²⁴ Five members of the board must be licensed veterinarians, and two members of the board must be laypersons who are not and have never been veterinarians or members of any closely related profession or occupation.²⁵

The board is required, like all boards regulated under chapter 455 of Florida Statutes, to meet at least once annually and may meet as often as is necessary.²⁶ There is currently one vacancy on the board.²⁷

Veterinary Schools in Florida

Currently the University of Florida is the only school in Florida to offer a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program that is accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA).²⁸

The following institutions offered through Florida's state college system offer an accredited veterinary technology program:²⁹

- Eastern Florida State College,
- Florida A&M University,
- Hillsborough Community College,
- Miami-Dade College,
- Pensacola State College, and
- St. Petersburg College.

Veterinarian Shortage

According to a survey conducted by the American Pet Products Association (APPA), 70 percent of U.S. households, or about 90.5 million families, own a pet. This is an increase from 56 percent of U.S. households in 1988, and 67 percent in 2019.³⁰ As a result, experts say there is a shortage of veterinarians in the U.S., which is expected to result in the need for approximately 15,000

technician who acts in good faith to provide emergency medical care to an injured police canine is immune from criminal or civil liability.

²⁴ Section 474.204(1), F.S.

²⁵ Section 474.204(2), F.S.

²⁶ Section 455.207(3), F.S.

²⁷ Department of Business & Professional Regulation Board Member Appointments, Updated March 2025, https://www2.myfloridalicense.com/pro/vetm/documents/vet_board.pdf (last visited January 14, 2026).

²⁸ American Veterinary Medical Association, *Accredited Veterinary Colleges*, <https://www.avma.org/education/center-for-veterinary-accreditation/accredited-veterinary-colleges> (last visited January 14, 2026).

²⁹ American Veterinary Medical Association, *Accredited Veterinary Technology Programs*, <https://www.avma.org/education/center-for-veterinary-accreditation/veterinary-technology-programs-accredited-avma-cvtea#florida> (last visited January 14, 2026).

³⁰ Insurance Information Institute, *Facts + Statistics: Pet Ownership and Insurance*, <https://www.iii.org/fact-statistic/facts-statistics-pet-ownership-and-insurance#:~:text=Seventy%20percent%20of%20U.S.%20households.and%2067%20percent%20in%202019>. (last visited January 14, 2026).

veterinarians by the year 2030.³¹ A study from Banfield Pet Hospital reveals an estimated 75 million pets in the U.S. may not have access to the veterinary care they need by 2030, with an important factor being a critical shortage of veterinarians.³²

The University of Florida's Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, Dana Zimmer, has indicated that there is a shortage of veterinarians in Florida, which in addition to pets has "1.7 million beef cattle and dairy cows, more horses than Kentucky and an alarming decline of manatee." The state's only veterinary medical college, the University of Florida, also reports that due to limited capacity, it must turn away 1,500 qualified candidates a year.³³

According to the AVMA:

Conditions have pushed the idea of a midlevel practitioner to the fore as veterinary practices have struggled to meet service demands. This issue has been compounded by continued inefficiencies in practices as pandemic disruptions persist and client expectations for availability and convenience. Inflation has also increased costs for labor and for products such as medical equipment and medications, creating additional concern around clients' ability to afford needed care. Additionally, retention of veterinary practice staff members and attrition from the profession are ongoing and increasing concerns.³⁴

The AVMA found that a midlevel practitioner may not be the best option to address these concerns, and that time and effort should be spent on resources, tools, and programs designed to retain veterinarians and credentialed veterinary technicians; further develop veterinary technician specialties; help veterinary practices operate at optimum efficiency; and effectively collaborate—within practice teams and across the profession—to meet clients' needs for high-quality veterinary services.³⁵

However, according to a study conducted by the National Library of Medicine:

The projected shortage of veterinarians has created a need to explore alternatives designed to meet society's future demands. A veterinary professional health care provider, similar to the human medical profession's physician assistant (PA), is one such alternative. It is

³¹ Spectrum News 13, *Mobile 'ElleVet' clinic helps relieve veterinarian shortage*, <https://www.mynews13.com/fl/orlando/news/2023/02/03/the-ellevet-project-#:~:text=%E2%80%9494%20Experts%20say%20there's%20a%20shortage,States%20may%20not%20get%20care>. (last visited January 14, 2026).

³² Banfield Pet Hospital, *75 million pets may not have access to veterinary care by 2030, New Banfield® study finds*, <https://www.banfield.com/en/about-banfield/newsroom/press-releases/2020/75-million-pets-may-not-have-access-to-veterinary> (last visited January 14, 2026).

³³ Dana Zimmer, *Florida needs more veterinarians* | *Column*, Tampa Bay Times (January 3, 2022), <https://www.tampabay.com/opinion/2022/01/03/florida-needs-more-veterinarians-column/> (last visited January 14, 2026).

³⁴ American Veterinary Medical Association, AVMA News, *Idea of midlevel practitioner rejected in favor of better support, engagement of credentialed veterinary technicians* (Jan. 10, 2023), <https://www.avma.org/news/idea-midlevel-practitioner-rejected-favor-better-support-engagement-credentialed-veterinary> (last visited January 14, 2026).

³⁵ *Id.*

suggested that perhaps veterinary professional associates, modeled after PAs, could be employed to handle routine veterinary care and thereby allow veterinarians additional time to focus on the more demanding and challenging aspects of veterinary medicine. Perhaps a team approach, similar to the physician/PA team, could help the field of veterinary medicine to better serve both clients and patients. As veterinary medicine directs its attention toward the new challenges on the horizon, creative solutions will be needed. Perhaps some variation of a veterinary professional associate is worthy of future discussion.³⁶

Human Physician Assistants

According to the Mayo Clinic, PAs are “licensed medical professionals who hold an advanced degree and are able to provide direct patient care. They work with patients of all ages in virtually all specialty and primary care areas, diagnosing and treating common illnesses and working with minor procedures. With an increasing shortage of health care providers, PAs are a critical part of today’s team-based approach to health care. They increase access to quality health care for many populations and communities. The specific duties of a PA are determined by their supervising physician and state law, but they provide many of the same services as a primary care physician. They practice in every state and in a wide variety of clinical settings and specialties.”³⁷

In Florida, PAs are licensed medical professionals that are authorized to perform services delegated by a supervising physician.³⁸ PAs are regulated by the Florida Council on Physician Assistants in conjunction with either the Board of Medicine for PAs licensed under ch. 458, F.S., or the Board of Osteopathic Medicine for PAs licensed under ch. 459, F.S. During fiscal year 2023-2024, there were 11,890 actively licensed PAs in the state, and 1,339 initial PA licenses were issued by the Florida Department of Health.³⁹

Veterinary Professional Associates in Other Jurisdictions

States

In 2024, voters of the state of Colorado approved a ballot measure to create a new, state-regulated veterinary position (Veterinary Professional Associate) that was to address, in part, the shortage of care, especially in rural areas, for pets.⁴⁰ Colorado’s proposition empowered the state to create a regulatory scheme to license and regulate these Veterinary Professional Associates.

³⁶ Lori Kogan, Sherry Stewart, *Veterinary professional associates: does the profession's foresight include a mid-tier professional similar to physician assistants?*, National Library of Medicine (2009), <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19625672/> (last visited January 14, 2026).

³⁷ Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science, *Physician Assistant*, <https://college.mayo.edu/academics/explore-health-care-careers/careers-a-z/physician-assistant/> (last visited January 14, 2026).

³⁸ Sections 458.347(2)(e) and 459.022(2)(e), F.S.

³⁹ Florida Department of Health, Division of Medical Quality Assurance, Annual Report and Long-Range Plan, Fiscal Year 2023-2024, <https://flhealthsource.gov/pdf/reports/2024.10.28.FY23-24AR-FINAL.pdf> (last visited January 14, 2026).

⁴⁰ Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies, *State Board of Veterinary Medicine: Proposition 129*, <https://dpo.colorado.gov/Veterinary/Proposition129>, (last visited January 14, 2026).

Similarly to what is being proposed in the bill, Colorado would provide this Veterinary Professional Associate a pathway for those who complete a master's degree in veterinary clinical care, or an equivalent degree determined by the state board.⁴¹ This new Colorado law went into effect on January 1, 2026.⁴²

Universities

In 2022, The Lincoln Memorial University-College of Veterinary Medicine created the first-of-its-kind Master of Veterinary Clinical Care degree.⁴³ Students can obtain this degree fully online and in as little as 3 semesters (30 credit hours).⁴⁴

In June of 2025, Lincoln Memorial University announced plans to expand its medical and veterinary education programs into Orange Park, Florida.⁴⁵

In 2025, Colorado State University developed a similar program that is now admitting students.⁴⁶

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 of the bill establishes the title of the bill as the “Veterinary Workforce Innovation Act.”

Section 2 of the bill amends s. 474.201, F.S., to update the state’s legislative findings and intent, stating that the “practice of educated, trained and experienced veterinary professional associates will increase consumer access to high-quality medical services at reasonable cost to consumers, while also increasing the efficiency of the practice of veterinary medicine in this state.”

Section 3 of the bill amends s. 474.202, F.S., to define the new role of “veterinary professional associate” to mean an individual who has graduated with a master’s degree or the equivalent in veterinary clinical care from an accredited institution and who meets the requirements to be registered by the DPBR.

Section 4 of the bill amends s. 474.2021, F.S., by changing the duration of time medications can be prescribed via telehealth from **1 month** to **6 months** for flea and tick medication and from **14 days** to **30 days** for other animal drugs.

Section 5 of the bill amends s. 474.203, F.S., to provide that a veterinary professional associate is exempt from ch. 474, F.S., while under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian. The bill

⁴¹ *Id.*

⁴² *Id.*

⁴³ Lincoln Memorial University, *Master of Veterinary Clinical Care*, <https://www.lmunet.edu/academics/programs/graduate-professional/master-of-veterinary-clinical-care>, (last visited January 14, 2026).

⁴⁴ *Id.*

⁴⁵ Lincoln Memorial University, *LMU Grows Its Footprint with Major Medical and Veterinary Expansion in Orange Park, Florida*, December 9, 2025, <https://www.lmunet.edu/news/2025/12/Major-Medical-and-Veterinary-Expansion-in-Orange-Park> (last visited January 14, 2026).

⁴⁶ Colorado State University, *About the Master of Science in Veterinary Clinical Care*, <https://vetmedbiosci.colostate.edu/vpa/>, (last visited January 14, 2026).

clarifies that licensed veterinarians will be responsible for all such acts performed by persons under her or his supervision, including veterinary professional associates.

Section 6 of the bill creates s. 474.2426, F.S., laying out the regulatory framework for the newly created position of “veterinary professional associate.” The bill requires:

- The DBPR to issue a certificate of registration to each veterinary professional associate or applicant whom the DBPR verifies has applied, graduated from the relevant accredited program, and received a passing score on the relevant professional national competency examination approved by the board.
- The DBPR to make a list of registrants available to the public on its website.

The bill allows for the DBPR to suspend the registration of any veterinary professional associate whom the board determines has caused serious harm to an animal due to negligence, incompetence, or misconduct related to duties performed under this section and in a manner inconsistent with the supervising veterinarian’s specific direction, until which time as the registrant has completed remedial training or education directed by the board.

The bill allows for the DBPR to rescind the registration of any veterinary professional associate who is convicted of animal cruelty or animal fighting.

The bill prohibits any individual from holding themselves out as a registered veterinary professional associate or in any other way represent themselves as a veterinary professional associate unless he or she has a valid certificate of registration from the DBPR.

Duties and Actions of a Registered Veterinary Professional Associate

The bill allows for a registered veterinary professional associate to engage in *the practice of veterinary medicine* as delegated under the responsible supervision, as defined in s. 474.202, F.S., of a licensed veterinarian, unless prohibited by other state or federal law, to the extent that he or she is competent and has the necessary training, current knowledge, and experience to provide such care.

A registered veterinary professional associate may not do any of the following:

- Prescribe a controlled substance listed in s. 893.03, F.S.,
 - With the exception that a registered veterinary professional associate may perform humane euthanasia and prepare, log, and administer controlled substances for the purpose of analgesia, anesthesia, or humane euthanasia, as delegated by a licensed veterinarian and performed under responsible supervision.
- Perform a surgical procedure,
 - With the exception that a veterinary professional associate may perform an orchiectomy,⁴⁷ veterinary dental surgery, or veterinary suturing or stapling of skin lacerations, gingival incisions, or existing surgical incisions.

⁴⁷ This procedure is for reproductive sterilization (spay/neuter). It is used to reduce the incidence of the most common canine prostatic diseases, tumors, and unwanted behaviors. Today’s Veterinary Practice, *Update on Orchiectomy*, https://todaysveterinarypractice.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2022/10/TVP-2022-1112_Orchiectomy.pdf (last visited January 14, 2026).

Section 7 of the bill amends s. 828.30, F.S., to allow registered veterinary professional associates to administer rabies vaccinations.

The bill takes effect January 1, 2027.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 474.201, 474.202, 474.2021, 474.203, and 828.30.

This bill creates section 474.2126 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

CS by Regulated Industries on January 12, 2026:

The Committee Substitute removed from the bill the following:

- Definitions for the terms “veterinary technician” or “veterinary technologist” and “veterinary technology.”
- References to “veterinary technology,” “program for veterinary technology,” “veterinary technician” and “veterinary technologist” from the exemptions section of ch. 474, F.S.
- Provision altering the composition of the Board of Veterinary Medicine.
- Regulatory mechanism including registration, prohibitions, and duties and actions for “veterinary technicians” or “veterinary technologists.”
- Provisions regarding administration of medication by veterinary professional associates, veterinary technicians, and veterinary technologists.
- Provisions regarding delegation of tasks by the supervising licensed veterinarian to veterinary technicians and veterinary technologists.
- Provisions regarding liability of the supervising licensed veterinarian for acts or omissions of registered veterinary professional associates, veterinary technicians, or veterinary technologists.

B. Amendments:

None.



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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
01/12/2026	.	
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The Committee on Regulated Industries (Bradley) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete everything after the enacting clause
and insert:

Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Veterinary
Workforce Innovation Act."

Section 2. Section 474.201, Florida Statutes, is amended to
read:

474.201 Legislative findings, intent, and purpose.—

(1) The Legislature finds that the practice of veterinary



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medicine is potentially dangerous to the public health and safety if conducted by incompetent and unlicensed practitioners. The legislative purpose in enacting this chapter is to ensure that every veterinarian practicing in this state meet minimum requirements for safe practice. It is the legislative intent that veterinarians who are not normally competent or who otherwise present a danger to the public ~~shall~~ be disciplined or prohibited from practicing in this state.

(2) The Legislature finds that the practice of educated, trained, and experienced veterinary professional associates will increase consumer access to high-quality veterinary medical services at a reasonable cost to consumers, while also increasing the efficiency of the practice of veterinary medicine in this state.

Section 3. Present subsection (14) of section 474.202, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (15), and a new subsection (14) is added to that section, to read:

474.202 Definitions.—As used in this chapter:

(14) "Veterinary professional associate" means an individual who has graduated with a master's degree or the equivalent in veterinary clinical care from an accredited institution and who meets the requirements to be registered by the department.

Section 4. Subsection (4) of section 474.2021, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

474.2021 Veterinary telehealth.—

(4) A veterinarian practicing veterinary telehealth:

(a) May not engage in the practice of veterinary telehealth unless it is within the context of a veterinarian/client/patient



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relationship;

(b) Shall practice in a manner consistent with his or her scope of practice and the prevailing professional standard of practice for a veterinarian who provides in-person veterinary services to patients in this state and shall employ sound, professional judgment to determine whether using veterinary telehealth is an appropriate method for delivering medical advice or treatment to the patient;

(c) May use veterinary telehealth to perform an initial patient evaluation to establish the veterinarian/client/patient relationship if the evaluation is conducted using synchronous, audiovisual communication. The evaluation may not be performed using audio-only communications, text messaging, questionnaires, chatbots, or other similar means. If a veterinarian practicing telehealth conducts a patient evaluation sufficient to diagnose and treat the patient, the veterinarian is not required to research a patient's medical history or conduct a physical examination of the patient before using veterinary telehealth to provide a veterinary health care service to the patient;

(d) If the initial patient evaluation is performed using veterinary telehealth, must provide the client with a statement containing the veterinarian's name, license number, and contact information and the contact information for at least one physical veterinary clinic in the vicinity of the patient's location and instructions for how to receive patient follow-up care or assistance if the veterinarian and client are unable to communicate because of a technological or equipment failure or if there is an adverse reaction to treatment, and inform the client that, if medication is prescribed, the client may obtain



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a prescription that may be filled at the pharmacy of his or her choice. The veterinarian shall obtain from the client a signed and dated statement indicating the client has received the required information before practicing veterinary telehealth;

(e) Shall prescribe all drugs and medications in accordance with all federal and state laws and the following requirements:

1. A veterinarian practicing veterinary telehealth may order, prescribe, or make available medicinal drugs or drugs specifically approved for use in animals by the United States Food and Drug Administration, the use of which conforms to the approved labeling. Prescriptions based solely on a telehealth evaluation may be issued for up to 6 months ~~1-month~~ for products labeled solely for flea and tick control and up to 30 ~~14~~ days of treatment for other animal drugs. Prescriptions based solely on a telehealth evaluation may not be renewed without an in-person examination.

2. A veterinarian practicing veterinary telehealth may not order, prescribe, or make available medicinal drugs or drugs as defined in s. 465.003 approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for human use or compounded antibacterial, antifungal, antiviral, or antiparasitic medications, unless the veterinarian has conducted an in-person physical examination of the animal or made medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animal is kept.

3. A veterinarian may not use veterinary telehealth to prescribe a controlled substance as defined in chapter 893 unless the veterinarian has conducted an in-person physical examination of the animal or made medically appropriate and timely visits within the past year to the premises where the



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animal is kept.

4. A veterinarian practicing veterinary telehealth may not prescribe a drug or other medication for use on a horse engaged in racing or training at a facility under the jurisdiction of the Florida Gaming Control Commission or on a horse that is a covered horse as defined in the federal Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act, 15 U.S.C. ss. 3051 et seq.;

(f) Shall be familiar with available veterinary resources, including emergency resources, near the patient's location and be able to provide the client with a list of nearby veterinarians who may be able to see the patient in person upon the request of the client;

(g) Shall keep, maintain, and make available a summary of the patient record as provided in s. 474.2165; and

(h) May not use veterinary telehealth to issue an international or interstate travel certificate or a certificate of veterinary inspection.

Section 5. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) and subsection (7) of section 474.203, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

474.203 Exemptions.—This chapter does not apply to:

(5)(a) Any person, or the person's regular employee, administering to the ills or injuries of her or his own animals, including, but not limited to, castration, spaying, and dehorning of herd animals, unless title is transferred or employment provided for the purpose of circumventing this law. This exemption does not apply to any person licensed as a veterinarian in another state or foreign jurisdiction and practicing temporarily in this state. However, except as provided in s. 474.2126 or s. 828.30, only a veterinarian may



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immunize or treat an animal for diseases that are communicable to humans and that are of public health significance.

(7) Any veterinary aide, nurse, laboratory technician, preceptor, person registered pursuant to s. 474.2126, or other employee of a licensed veterinarian who administers medication or who renders auxiliary or supporting assistance under the responsible supervision of a licensed veterinarian, including those tasks identified by rule of the board requiring immediate supervision, provided that a registered veterinary professional associate is subject to s. 474.2126. However, the licensed veterinarian is responsible for all such acts performed under this subsection by persons under her or his supervision.

For the purposes of chapters 465 and 893, persons exempt pursuant to subsection (1), subsection (2), or subsection (4) are deemed to be duly licensed practitioners authorized by the laws of this state to prescribe drugs or medicinal supplies.

Section 6. Section 474.2126, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

474.2126 Veterinary professional associates; registration.—

(1) REGISTRATION.—

(a) A veterinary professional associate may apply to the department for registration by submitting a form prescribed by the board. The department shall consider for registration each qualified veterinary professional associate whom the department verifies has submitted a completed application and meets the applicable requirements of this subsection.

(b) The department shall issue a certificate of registration to each veterinary professional associate applicant



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whom the department verifies has graduated from the relevant accredited program and received a passing score on the relevant professional national competency examination approved by the board.

(c) The department shall make a list of registrants available to the public on the department's website.

(d) The department may suspend the registration of any veterinary professional associate whom the board determines has caused serious harm to an animal due to negligence, incompetence, or misconduct related to duties performed under this section and in a manner inconsistent with the supervising veterinarian's specific direction, until such time as the registrant has completed remedial training or education directed by the board.

(e) The department may rescind the registration of any veterinary professional associate who is convicted of animal cruelty under s. 828.12 or animal fighting under s. 828.122.

(2) PROHIBITION.—An individual may not hold himself or herself out as a registered veterinary professional associate or in any other way represent himself or herself as a veterinary professional associate unless he or she has a valid certificate of registration from the department.

(3) DUTIES AND ACTIONS OF A REGISTERED VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE.—

(a) Unless otherwise prohibited by federal law, a registered veterinary professional associate may engage in the practice of veterinary medicine as defined in s. 474.202 or veterinary medicine as defined in s. 474.202, to the extent that he or she is competent and has the necessary training, current



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185 knowledge, and experience to provide such care, as delegated
186 under the responsible supervision, as defined in s. 474.202, of
187 a licensed veterinarian.

188 (b) A registered veterinary professional associate may not
189 do any of the following:

190 1. Prescribe a controlled substance listed in s. 893.03,
191 except that a registered veterinary professional associate may
192 perform humane euthanasia and prepare, log, and administer
193 controlled substances for the purpose of analgesia, anesthesia,
194 or humane euthanasia, as delegated by a licensed veterinarian
195 and performed under responsible supervision.

196 2. Perform a surgical procedure, except that a veterinary
197 professional associate may perform the following surgical
198 procedures:

199 a. Orchiectomy;
200 b. Veterinary dental surgery; or
201 c. Veterinary suturing or stapling of skin lacerations,
202 gingival incisions, or existing surgical incisions.

203 Section 7. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) and subsection
204 (3) of section 828.30, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

205 828.30 Rabies vaccination of dogs, cats, and ferrets.—

206 (1)(a) All dogs, cats, and ferrets 4 months of age or older
207 must be vaccinated by a licensed veterinarian or a person
208 authorized under paragraph (b) or s. 474.2126 against rabies
209 with a vaccine that is licensed by the United States Department
210 of Agriculture for use in those species.

211 (3) Upon vaccination against rabies, the licensed
212 veterinarian shall provide the animal's owner and the animal
213 control authority with a rabies vaccination certificate. Each



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animal control authority and veterinarian shall use the "Rabies Vaccination Certificate" of the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV) or an equivalent form approved by the local government that contains all the information required by the NASPHV Rabies Vaccination Certificate. The veterinarian who administers the rabies vaccination or who supervises the administration of the rabies vaccination as provided in paragraph (1)(b) or s. 474.2126 to an animal as authorized under this section may affix his or her signature stamp in lieu of an actual signature.

Section 8. This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====
And the title is amended as follows:

Delete everything before the enacting clause
and insert:

A bill to be entitled
An act relating to veterinary medicine; providing a short title; amending s. 474.201, F.S.; revising legislative findings, intent, and purpose; amending s. 474.202, F.S.; defining the term "veterinary professional associate"; amending s. 474.2021, F.S.; increasing the amount of time for which prescriptions based solely on a veterinary telehealth evaluation may be issued for certain drugs; amending s. 474.203, F.S.; revising the applicability of certain exemptions; creating s. 474.2126, F.S.; providing requirements for veterinary professional associates to receive certificates of registration from the Department of Business and Professional Regulation;



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requiring the department to make a list of veterinary professional associate registrants publicly available on its website; authorizing the department to suspend the registration of a veterinary professional associate upon a certain determination by the Board of Veterinary Medicine; authorizing the department to rescind the registration of a veterinary professional associate under certain circumstances; prohibiting a person from holding himself or herself out as a veterinary professional associate under certain circumstances; authorizing a registered veterinary professional associate to engage in the practice of veterinary medicine under certain circumstances; prohibiting a registered veterinary professional associate from taking certain actions; providing exceptions; amending s. 828.30, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; providing an effective date.

By Senator Bradley

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A bill to be entitled

1 An act relating to veterinary medicine; providing a
2 short title; amending s. 474.201, F.S.; revising
3 legislative findings, intent, and purpose; amending s.
4 474.202, F.S.; defining terms; amending s. 474.201,
5 F.S.; increasing the amount of time for which
6 prescriptions based solely on a veterinary telehealth
7 evaluation may be issued for certain drugs; amending
8 s. 474.203, F.S.; revising the applicability of
9 certain exemptions; amending s. 474.204, F.S.;
10 revising the membership of the Board of Veterinary
11 Medicine; creating s. 474.2126, F.S.; providing
12 requirements for veterinary professional associates,
13 veterinary technicians, and veterinary technologists
14 to receive certificates of registration from the
15 Department of Business and Professional Regulation;
16 requiring the department to make a list of veterinary
17 professional associate, veterinary technician, and
18 veterinary technologist registrants publicly available
19 on its website; providing registration eligibility for
20 certain individuals; authorizing the department to
21 suspend the registration of a veterinary professional
22 associate, veterinary technician, or veterinary
23 technologist upon a certain determination by the Board
24 of Veterinary Medicine; authorizing the department to
25 rescind the registration of a veterinary professional
26 associate, veterinary technician, or veterinary
27 technologist under certain circumstances; prohibiting
28 a person from holding himself or herself out as a
29

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30 veterinary professional associate, veterinary
31 technician, or veterinary technologist under certain
32 circumstances; authorizing a registered veterinary
33 technician or veterinary technologist to take certain
34 actions as delegated under the responsible supervision
35 of a licensed veterinarian or registered veterinary
36 professional associate; prohibiting a registered
37 veterinary technician or veterinary technologist from
38 taking certain actions; authorizing a registered
39 veterinary professional associate to engage in the
40 practice of veterinary medicine under certain
41 circumstances; prohibiting a registered veterinary
42 professional associate from taking certain actions;
43 authorizing a person who is not registered as a
44 veterinary professional associate, veterinary
45 technician, or veterinary technologist to take certain
46 actions only while under the immediate supervision of
47 specified persons; providing construction; authorizing
48 a supervising veterinarian to delegate certain tasks
49 to specified persons; providing that a supervising
50 licensed veterinarian is liable for any acts or
51 omissions by certain persons under his or her
52 supervision and control; amending s. 828.30, F.S.;
53 conforming provisions to changes made by the act;
54 providing an effective date.
55

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Veterinary

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Workforce Innovation Act."

Section 2. Section 474.201, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

474.201 Legislative findings, intent, and purpose.—

(1) The Legislature finds that the practice of veterinary medicine is potentially dangerous to the public health and safety if conducted by incompetent and unlicensed practitioners. The legislative purpose in enacting this chapter is to ensure that every veterinarian practicing in this state meet minimum requirements for safe practice. It is the legislative intent that veterinarians who are not normally competent or who otherwise present a danger to the public must ~~shall~~ be disciplined or prohibited from practicing in this state.

(2) The Legislature finds that the practice of educated, trained, and experienced veterinary professional associates, veterinary technicians, and veterinary technologists will increase consumer access to high-quality veterinary medical services at a reasonable cost to consumers, while also increasing the efficiency of the practice of veterinary medicine in this state.

Section 3. Present subsection (14) of section 474.202, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (17), and a new subsection (14) and subsections (15) and (16) are added to that section, to read:

474.202 Definitions.—As used in this chapter:

(14) "Veterinary professional associate" means an individual who has graduated with a master's degree or the equivalent in veterinary clinical care from an accredited institution and who meets the requirements to be registered by

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the department.

(15) "Veterinary technician" or "veterinary technologist" means an individual who has graduated from an accredited veterinary technology program and who meets the requirements to be registered by the department. The term also includes a veterinary nurse.

(16) "Veterinary technology" includes, with respect to animals, the provision of medical care, monitoring, and treatment of a veterinary patient by a person who is a registered veterinary technician or technologist working under supervision of a licensed veterinarian as authorized under this chapter. The term includes veterinary nursing.

Section 4. Subsection (4) of section 474.2021, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

474.2021 Veterinary telehealth.—

(4) A veterinarian practicing veterinary telehealth:

(a) May not engage in the practice of veterinary telehealth unless it is within the context of a veterinarian/client/patient relationship;

(b) Shall practice in a manner consistent with his or her scope of practice and the prevailing professional standard of practice for a veterinarian who provides in-person veterinary services to patients in this state and shall employ sound, professional judgment to determine whether using veterinary telehealth is an appropriate method for delivering medical advice or treatment to the patient;

(c) May use veterinary telehealth to perform an initial patient evaluation to establish the veterinarian/client/patient relationship if the evaluation is conducted using synchronous,

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117 audiovisual communication. The evaluation may not be performed
 118 using audio-only communications, text messaging, questionnaires,
 119 chatbots, or other similar means. If a veterinarian practicing
 120 telehealth conducts a patient evaluation sufficient to diagnose
 121 and treat the patient, the veterinarian is not required to
 122 research a patient's medical history or conduct a physical
 123 examination of the patient before using veterinary telehealth to
 124 provide a veterinary health care service to the patient;
 125 (d) If the initial patient evaluation is performed using
 126 veterinary telehealth, must provide the client with a statement
 127 containing the veterinarian's name, license number, and contact
 128 information and the contact information for at least one
 129 physical veterinary clinic in the vicinity of the patient's
 130 location and instructions for how to receive patient follow-up
 131 care or assistance if the veterinarian and client are unable to
 132 communicate because of a technological or equipment failure or
 133 if there is an adverse reaction to treatment, and inform the
 134 client that, if medication is prescribed, the client may obtain
 135 a prescription that may be filled at the pharmacy of his or her
 136 choice. The veterinarian shall obtain from the client a signed
 137 and dated statement indicating the client has received the
 138 required information before practicing veterinary telehealth;
 139 (e) Shall prescribe all drugs and medications in accordance
 140 with all federal and state laws and the following requirements:

141 1. A veterinarian practicing veterinary telehealth may
 142 order, prescribe, or make available medicinal drugs or drugs
 143 specifically approved for use in animals by the United States
 144 Food and Drug Administration, the use of which conforms to the
 145 approved labeling. Prescriptions based solely on a telehealth

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146 evaluation may be issued for up to 6 months ~~1 month~~ for products
 147 labeled solely for flea and tick control and up to 30 ~~44~~ days of
 148 treatment for other animal drugs. Prescriptions based solely on
 149 a telehealth evaluation may not be renewed without an in-person
 150 examination.

151 2. A veterinarian practicing veterinary telehealth may not
 152 order, prescribe, or make available medicinal drugs or drugs as
 153 defined in s. 465.003 approved by the United States Food and
 154 Drug Administration for human use or compounded antibacterial,
 155 antifungal, antiviral, or antiparasitic medications, unless the
 156 veterinarian has conducted an in-person physical examination of
 157 the animal or made medically appropriate and timely visits to
 158 the premises where the animal is kept.

159 3. A veterinarian may not use veterinary telehealth to
 160 prescribe a controlled substance as defined in chapter 893
 161 unless the veterinarian has conducted an in-person physical
 162 examination of the animal or made medically appropriate and
 163 timely visits within the past year to the premises where the
 164 animal is kept.

165 4. A veterinarian practicing veterinary telehealth may not
 166 prescribe a drug or other medication for use on a horse engaged
 167 in racing or training at a facility under the jurisdiction of
 168 the Florida Gaming Control Commission or on a horse that is a
 169 covered horse as defined in the federal Horseracing Integrity
 170 and Safety Act, 15 U.S.C. ss. 3051 et seq.;

171 (f) Shall be familiar with available veterinary resources,
 172 including emergency resources, near the patient's location and
 173 be able to provide the client with a list of nearby
 174 veterinarians who may be able to see the patient in person upon

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175 the request of the client;

176 (g) Shall keep, maintain, and make available a summary of
177 the patient record as provided in s. 474.2165; and

178 (h) May not use veterinary telehealth to issue an
179 international or interstate travel certificate or a certificate
180 of veterinary inspection.

181 Section 5. Subsection (3), paragraph (a) of subsection (5),
182 and subsection (7) of section 474.203, Florida Statutes, are
183 amended to read:

184 474.203 Exemptions.—This chapter does not apply to:

185 (3) A student in a school or college of veterinary medicine
186 or a program for veterinary technology while in the performance
187 of duties assigned by her or his instructor or when working as a
188 preceptor under the immediate supervision of a licensee, if such
189 preceptorship is required for graduation from an accredited
190 school or college of veterinary medicine or program for
191 veterinary technology. The licensed veterinarian is responsible
192 for all acts performed by a preceptor under her or his
193 supervision.

194 (5) (a) Any person, or the person's regular employee,
195 administering to the ills or injuries of her or his own animals,
196 including, but not limited to, castration, spaying, and
197 dehorning of herd animals, unless title is transferred or
198 employment provided for the purpose of circumventing this law.
199 This exemption does not apply to any person licensed as a
200 veterinarian or registered as a veterinary professional
201 associate, veterinary technician, or veterinary technologist in
202 another state or foreign jurisdiction and practicing temporarily
203 in this state. However, except as provided in s. 474.2126 or s.

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204 828.30, only a veterinarian may immunize or treat an animal for
205 diseases that are communicable to humans and that are of public
206 health significance.

207 (7) Any veterinary aide, nurse, laboratory technician,
208 preceptor, or assistant; any registered veterinary professional
209 associate, veterinary technician, or veterinary technologist,
210 registered pursuant to s. 474.2126; or other employee of a
211 licensed veterinarian who administers medication or who renders
212 auxiliary or supporting assistance under the responsible
213 supervision of a licensed veterinarian, including those tasks
214 identified by rule of the board requiring immediate supervision,
215 provided that a registered veterinary professional associate,
216 veterinary technician, or veterinary technologist is subject to
217 s. 474.2126. However, the licensed veterinarian is responsible
218 for all such acts performed under this subsection by persons
219 under her or his supervision.

220 For the purposes of chapters 465 and 893, persons exempt
221 pursuant to subsection (1), subsection (2), or subsection (4)
222 are deemed to be duly licensed practitioners authorized by the
223 laws of this state to prescribe drugs or medicinal supplies.

224 Section 6. Section 474.204, Florida Statutes, is amended to
225 read:

226 474.204 Board of Veterinary Medicine.—

227 (1) To carry out ~~the provisions of~~ this chapter, there is
228 created within the department the Board of Veterinary Medicine
229 composed ~~consisting of all of the following seven~~ members, who
230 shall be appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by
231 the Senate:—

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233 (a) Five members of the board who are ~~shall be~~ licensed
 234 veterinarians.
 235
 236 (b) Two members who are registered with the department as a
 237 veterinary professional associate, veterinary technician, or
 238 veterinary technologist and who have been employed as such for
 239 at least 5 years immediately preceding the date of appointment
 240 to the board.
 241 (c) Two members of the board who are ~~shall be~~ laypersons
 242 who are not and have never been veterinarians or members of any
 243 closely related profession or occupation.
 244 (2) All provisions of chapter 455 relating to activities
 245 of regulatory boards shall apply.
 246 Section 7. Section 474.2126, Florida Statutes, is created
 247 to read:
 248 474.2126 Veterinary professional associates, veterinary
 249 technicians, and veterinary technologists; registration.—
 250 (1) REGISTRATION.—
 251 (a) A veterinary professional associate, veterinary
 252 technician, or veterinary technologist may apply to the
 253 department for registration by submitting a form prescribed by
 254 the board. The department shall consider for registration each
 255 qualified veterinary professional associate, veterinary
 256 technician, or veterinary technologist, or applicant who the
 257 department verifies has submitted a completed application and
 258 meets the applicable requirements of this subsection.
 259 (b) The department shall issue a certificate of
 260 registration to each veterinary professional associate,
 261 veterinary technician, or veterinary technologist applicant who
 262 the department verifies has graduated from the relevant

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262 accredited program and received a passing score on the relevant
 263 professional national competency examination approved by the
 264 board.
 265 (c) The department shall issue a certificate of
 266 registration to an veterinary technician who does not meet the
 267 requirements of paragraph (b), if he or she:
 268 1. Submits a notarized document from an employer who is a
 269 licensed veterinarian certifying that as of January 1, 2000, the
 270 applicant possesses 5 or more years of practical experience
 271 performing the tasks of a veterinary technician in this state;
 272 2. Provides proof of graduation from a veterinary
 273 technology program accredited by the American Veterinary Medical
 274 Association Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and
 275 Activities before January 1, 2000; and
 276 3. Is in good standing with the appropriate Florida
 277 certifying body, including the Florida Veterinary Technician
 278 Association or the Florida Veterinary Medical Association, is
 279 eligible to apply for registration.
 280 (d) The department shall make the list of registrants
 281 available to the public on its website.
 282 (e) The department may suspend the registration of any
 283 veterinary professional associate, veterinary technician, or
 284 veterinary technologist who the board determines has caused
 285 serious harm to an animal due to negligence, incompetence, or
 286 misconduct related to duties performed under this section and in
 287 a manner inconsistent with the supervising veterinarian's
 288 specific direction, until which time as the registrant has
 289 completed remedial training or education directed by the board.
 290 (f) The department may rescind the registration of any

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291 veterinary professional associate, veterinary technician, or
 292 veterinary technologist who is convicted of animal cruelty or
 293 animal fighting under s. 828.12 or s. 828.122.

294 (2) PROHIBITION.—An individual may not hold himself or
 295 herself out as a registered veterinary professional associate,
 296 veterinary technician, or veterinary technologist or use the
 297 abbreviation RVT, RVTg, VT, VPA, or MVCC or in any other way
 298 represent himself or herself as a veterinary professional
 299 associate, veterinary technician, or veterinary technologist
 300 unless he or she has a valid certificate of registration from
 301 the department.

302 (3) DUTIES AND ACTIONS OF A REGISTERED VETERINARY

303 TECHNICIAN OR VETERINARY TECHNOLOGIST.—

304 (a) Unless otherwise prohibited by this section or other
 305 state or federal law, a registered veterinary technician or
 306 veterinary technologist may perform duties or actions in which
 307 he or she is competent and has the necessary training, current
 308 knowledge, and experience to provide, as delegated under the
 309 responsible supervision, as defined in s. 474.202, of a licensed
 310 veterinarian or registered veterinary professional associate. In
 311 addition to other duties or actions approved by the supervising
 312 veterinarian, a registered veterinary technician or veterinary
 313 technologist may perform all the following actions under the
 314 responsible supervision, as defined in s. 474.202, of a licensed
 315 veterinarian or a veterinary professional associate as delegated
 316 by a licensed veterinarian:

317 1. Administer medical drugs as defined in chapter 465
 318 prescribed for a patient by the supervising veterinarian, or
 319 provide treatments, as directed;

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320 2. Prepare, record, and administer vaccinations and
 321 microchips; or

322 3. Perform humane euthanasia of animals and prepare, log,
 323 and administer controlled substances for the purpose of
 324 analgesia, anesthesia, or humane euthanasia, as delegated by a
 325 licensed veterinarian and performed under responsible
 326 supervision.

327 (b) Except as otherwise authorized by this section or other
 328 state law, a registered veterinary technician or veterinary
 329 technologist may not perform any of the following actions:

330 1. Make or provide any diagnosis or prognosis;

331 2. Perform any surgery, except that a registered veterinary
 332 technician or registered veterinary technologist may perform
 333 suturing or stapling of skin lacerations, gingival incisions, or
 334 existing surgical incisions or tooth extraction procedures; or
 335 3. Prescribe any medical drugs as defined in chapter 465 or
 336 controlled substances as defined in chapter 893.

337 (4) DUTIES AND ACTIONS OF A REGISTERED VETERINARY

338 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE.—

339 (a) Unless otherwise prohibited by this section or other
 340 state or federal law, a registered veterinary professional
 341 associate may engage in the practice of veterinary medicine as
 342 defined in s. 474.202 or veterinary medicine as defined in s.
 343 474.202, to the extent that he or she is competent and has the
 344 necessary training, current knowledge, and experience to provide
 345 such care, as delegated under the responsible supervision, as
 346 defined in s. 474.202, of a licensed veterinarian.

347 (b) A registered veterinary professional associate may not
 348 do any of the following:

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349 1. Prescribe a controlled substance listed in s. 893.03,
 350 except that a registered veterinary professional associate may
 351 perform humane euthanasia and prepare, log, and administer
 352 controlled substances for the purpose of analgesia, anesthesia,
 353 or humane euthanasia, as delegated by a licensed veterinarian
 354 and performed under responsible supervision.
 355 2. Perform a surgical procedure, except that a veterinary
 356 professional associate may perform the following surgical
 357 procedures:

- 358 a. Orchiectomy;
- 359 b. Veterinary dental surgery; or
- 360 c. Veterinary suturing or stapling of skin lacerations,
 361 gingival incisions, or existing surgical incisions.

362 (5) ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION.—An individual who is not
 363 registered with the state as a veterinary professional
 364 associate, veterinary technician, or veterinary technician may
 365 administer medication prescribed by the supervising veterinarian
 366 for a patient or render auxiliary or supporting assistance only
 367 under the immediate supervision, as defined in s. 474.202, of a
 368 licensed veterinarian or under the immediate supervision of a
 369 registered veterinary professional associate, veterinary
 370 technician, or veterinary technician who is acting under the
 371 responsible supervision of a licensed veterinarian or his or her
 372 delegatee as defined in s. 474.202, as provided for in subsection
 373 (6). This section does not prohibit an individual from rendering
 374 lifesaving aid and treatment to an animal in the absence of a
 375 veterinarian if the animal is in a life-threatening condition
 376 and requires immediate treatment to sustain life or prevent
 377 further injury.

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378 (6) DELEGATION.—Unless otherwise prohibited under this
 379 section or other state law or federal law, a supervising
 380 licensed veterinarian may in his or her judgment delegate to a
 381 registered veterinary professional associate, veterinary
 382 technician, or veterinary technologist the responsibility of
 383 supervising a task or tasks performed by a veterinary assistant.
 384 (7) LIABILITY.—A supervising licensed veterinarian is
 385 liable for any acts or omissions of the registered veterinary
 386 professional associate, veterinary technician, or veterinary
 387 technologist acting under the licensed veterinarian's
 388 supervision and control.

389 Section 8. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) and subsection
 390 (3) of section 828.30, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
 391 828.30 Rabies vaccination of dogs, cats, and ferrets.—
 392 (1) (a) All dogs, cats, and ferrets 4 months of age or older
 393 must be vaccinated by a licensed veterinarian or a person
 394 authorized under paragraph (b) or s. 474.2126 against rabies
 395 with a vaccine that is licensed by the United States Department
 396 of Agriculture for use in those species.

397 (3) Upon vaccination against rabies, the licensed
 398 veterinarian shall provide the animal's owner and the animal
 399 control authority with a rabies vaccination certificate. Each
 400 animal control authority and veterinarian shall use the "Rabies
 401 Vaccination Certificate" of the National Association of State
 402 Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV) or an equivalent form
 403 approved by the local government that contains all the
 404 information required by the NASPHV Rabies Vaccination
 405 Certificate. The veterinarian who administers the rabies
 406 vaccination or who supervises the administration of the rabies

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407 vaccination as provided in paragraph (1) (b) or s. 474.2126 to an
408 animal as authorized under this section may affix his or her
409 signature stamp in lieu of an actual signature.
410

Section 9. This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Meeting Date

1/13/26

Bill Number or Topic

294

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Res. Indications
Committee

497168

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Richard Williams
Florida Veterinary
Medical Association

Phone

904-588-6612

Address

4958 Maybank Way

Email

wr9dca@Bolt3south.net

Street

City

Jacksonville

FL

State

Zip

32225

Speaking: ☐ For



Against

☐ Information

OR

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support



Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☒ I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☐ I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

APPEARANCE RECORD

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Committee

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Phone

Address

Street

City

State

Zip

Email

Speaking: ☐ For ☒ Against☐ InformationWaive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against**OR**☒ I am appearing without
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S-001 (08/10/2021)

1/12/26

Regulated Industries

Florida Veterinary
Medical Association

Dr Rick Sutliff

904-386-9619

drsutliff@gmail.com

2387 Coleen Ln.

Fleming Island FL 32003

APPEARANCE RECORD

1/12/26

Meeting Date

Reg Industries

Committee

796

Bill Number or Topic

Deliver both copies of this form to
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Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

TRAVIS MOORE

Name

Phone

727.421. 6902

P.O. Box 2020

Address

Email

travis@moore-relations.com

Street

St. Petersburg FL

City

State

33731

Zip

changed

Speaking:

☒ For☐ Against☐ Information**OR**

Waive Speaking:

☒ In-Support☐ Against☐ I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.☒ I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

Animal Legal Defense Fund

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

APPEARANCE RECORD

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1/12/26
Meeting Date

Regulated Industries
Committee

796
Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Wayne Jensen, D/M Phone 970.443-1638

Address 4122 Mallard Pond Ln Email wjensen.dum@gmail.com

Vernon FL 32462
City State Zip

Speaking: ☒ For ☐ Against ☐ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

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CourtSmart Tag Report

Room: KB 412

Case No.:

Type:

Caption: Regulated Industries Committee

Judge:

Started: 1/12/2026 4:03:30 PM

Ends: 1/12/2026 4:40:39 PM

Length: 00:37:10

4:03:44 PM	Chair Bradley calls meeting to order
4:03:46 PM	Roll call
4:04:05 PM	Quorum present
4:04:11 PM	Chair Bradley makes opening remarks
4:04:33 PM	Tab 1 - SB 754 Heated Tobacco Products by Senator DiCeglie
4:04:41 PM	Senator DiCeglie explains the bill
4:04:58 PM	Questions
4:05:03 PM	Senator Bracy Davis
4:05:16 PM	Senator DiCeglie
4:06:21 PM	Senator Bracy Davis
4:06:34 PM	Senator DiCeglie
4:06:52 PM	Senator Bernard
4:07:17 PM	Senator DiCeglie
4:08:00 PM	Appearance forms
4:08:11 PM	Scott Shalley, FL Retail Federation, waiving in support
4:08:14 PM	No debate
4:08:17 PM	Senator DiCeglie waives close
4:08:20 PM	Roll call
4:08:40 PM	SB 754 reported favorably
4:08:45 PM	Chair turned to Vice Chair Pizzo
4:09:17 PM	Tab 2 - SB 796 Veterinary Medicine by Senator Bradley
4:09:29 PM	Take up delete all amendment 497168
4:09:38 PM	Senator Bradley explains the delete all amendment
4:11:33 PM	Questions
4:11:36 PM	Senator Boyd
4:12:56 PM	Senator Bradley
4:13:18 PM	Appearance forms
4:13:58 PM	Richard Williams, FL Veterinary Medical Association, speaking against
4:17:12 PM	Vice Chair Pizzo
4:17:25 PM	Mr. Williams
4:17:32 PM	Vice Chair Pizzo
4:18:18 PM	Mr. Williams
4:18:50 PM	Back and forth with questions
4:19:25 PM	Dr. Rick Sutliff, FL Veterinary Medical Association, speaking against
4:24:06 PM	Questions from Vice Chair Pizzo
4:25:09 PM	Dr. Sutliff
4:25:16 PM	Back and forth with questions
4:27:07 PM	No debate
4:27:26 PM	Senator Bradley waives close
4:27:31 PM	Amendment adopted
4:27:39 PM	Appearance forms on bill
4:28:02 PM	Travis Moore, Animal Legal Defense Fund, speaking in support
4:30:11 PM	Wayne Jensen, DVM, speaking for the bill
4:34:09 PM	Debate
4:34:13 PM	Senator Mayfield
4:35:45 PM	Senator Boyd
4:36:49 PM	Vice Chair Pizzo
4:37:27 PM	Senator Bradley closes on the bill
4:39:45 PM	Roll call
4:40:09 PM	CS/SB 796 reported favorably
4:40:15 PM	Chair passed back to Chair Bradley
4:40:23 PM	Senator Calatayud for vote after

4:40:26 PM	Motion adopted
4:40:30 PM	Senator Bernard moves to close
4:40:31 PM	Meeting adjourned