

By Senator Wright

14-00561-20

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to injured police canines; creating s.
3 401.254, F.S.; defining the term "police canine";
4 authorizing life support services to transport injured
5 police canines under certain circumstances;
6 authorizing a paramedic or an emergency medical
7 technician to provide emergency medical care to
8 injured police canines under certain circumstances;
9 providing immunities; amending s. 474.203, F.S.;
10 providing applicability; providing an effective date.

11
12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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14 Section 1. Section 401.254, Florida Statutes, is created to
15 read:

16 401.254 Treatment of injured police canines.—

17 (1) As used in this section, the term "police canine" means
18 any canine that is owned, or the service of which is employed,
19 by a state or local law enforcement agency, a correctional
20 agency, a fire department, a special fire district, or the State
21 Fire Marshal for the principal purpose of aiding in the
22 detection of criminal activity, flammable materials, or missing
23 persons; enforcement of laws; investigation of fires; or
24 apprehension of offenders.

25 (2) A licensee with a valid permit for its transport
26 vehicle may transport a police canine injured in the line of
27 duty to a veterinary clinic, hospital emergency department, or
28 similar facility if there is no individual requiring medical
29 attention or transport at that time.

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30 (3) Notwithstanding s. 474.213, a paramedic or an emergency
31 medical technician may provide emergency medical care to a
32 police canine injured in the line of duty while at the scene of
33 the emergency or while the police canine is being transported to
34 a veterinary clinic, hospital emergency department, or similar
35 facility. A paramedic or an emergency medical technician who
36 acts in good faith to provide emergency medical care to an
37 injured police canine is immune from criminal or civil
38 liability.

39 Section 2. Subsection (9) is added to section 474.203,
40 Florida Statutes, to read:

41 474.203 Exemptions.—This chapter does not apply to:

42 (9) A paramedic or an emergency medical technician
43 providing emergency medical care to a police canine injured in
44 the line of duty as authorized under s. 401.254.

45
46 For the purposes of chapters 465 and 893, persons exempt
47 pursuant to subsection (1), subsection (2), or subsection (4)
48 are deemed to be duly licensed practitioners authorized by the
49 laws of this state to prescribe drugs or medicinal supplies.

50 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.