

By the Committee on Regulated Industries; and Senator Bradley

580-02350-25

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to veterinary professional associates;
3 providing a short title; creating s. 474.2126, F.S.;
4 providing legislative findings; defining terms;
5 authorizing certain individuals to use the title
6 "veterinary professional associate"; authorizing
7 veterinary professional associates to perform certain
8 duties only while under the responsible supervision of
9 a licensed veterinarian; prohibiting such associates
10 from prescribing certain drugs or controlled
11 substances or performing certain surgical procedures;
12 providing exceptions; providing that supervising
13 veterinarians are liable for the acts or omissions of
14 veterinary professional associates under their
15 supervision; providing an effective date.

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

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

21 Section 2. Section 474.2126, Florida Statutes, is created
22 to read:

23 474.2126 Veterinary professional associate.-

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

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30 (2) As used in this section, the term:

31 (a) "Approved program" means a master's program in
32 veterinary clinical care, or the equivalent, from a school of
33 veterinary medicine in the United States or in its territories
34 or possessions.

35 (b) "Veterinary professional associate" means a person who
36 has earned a master's degree from an approved program and is
37 authorized to perform veterinary medical services delegated by a
38 supervising veterinarian.

39 (3) The title "veterinary professional associate" may be
40 used only by an individual who has successfully completed an
41 approved program and passed a national competency examination.

42 (4) Unless otherwise prohibited by federal or state law, a
43 veterinary professional associate may perform duties or actions,
44 including duties or actions in s. 474.202(9) and (13), in which
45 he or she possesses the competence, necessary training, current
46 knowledge, and experience to perform the assigned duties. The
47 veterinary professional associate may perform only the duties
48 assigned to him or her while under the responsible supervision,
49 as defined in s. 474.202, of a licensed veterinarian, except
50 when immediate supervision is required as provided in paragraph

51 (5) (b) .

52 (5) A veterinary professional associate may not do either
53 of the following:

54 (a) Unless otherwise authorized by state or federal law,
55 prescribe medicinal drugs or drugs as defined in s. 465.003(15)
56 or a controlled substance listed in chapter 893.

57 (b) Perform surgical procedures that enter a body cavity,
58 except for veterinary sterilizations. Surgical procedures must

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59 be performed under immediate supervision, as defined in s.
60 474.202, of a licensed veterinarian.

61 (6) A licensed veterinarian who assigns duties or actions
62 to a veterinary professional associate is liable for any act or
63 omission of the veterinary professional associate acting under
64 the licensed veterinarian's supervision.

65 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.