

By Senator Wright

14-00252-21

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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 licensed life support services to
5 transport injured police canines under certain
6 circumstances; authorizing a paramedic or an emergency
7 medical technician to provide emergency medical care
8 to injured police canines under certain circumstances;
9 providing for immunity from criminal and civil
10 liability under certain circumstances; amending s.
11 474.203, F.S.; providing applicability; providing an
12 effective date.

13
14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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

18 401.254 Treatment of injured police canines.—

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

27 (2) A licensee with a valid permit for the transport
28 vehicle may transport a police canine injured in the line of
29 duty to a veterinary clinic, hospital emergency department, or

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30 similar facility if there is no individual requiring medical
31 attention or transport at that time.

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

41 Section 2. Subsection (10) is added to section 474.203,
42 Florida Statutes, to read:

43 474.203 Exemptions.—This chapter does not apply to:

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

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

52 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.