

Amendment No. 01 (for drafter's use only)

	<u>Senate</u>	CHAMBER ACTION	<u>House</u>
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ORIGINAL STAMP BELOW

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Representative(s) Sindler offered the following:

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Amendment

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On page 2, lines 21 through 29,
remove from the bill: all said lines

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15

and insert in lieu thereof:

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Section 2. The Legislature finds that there is a public necessity to compile information contained in rabies vaccination certificates and to readily provide such information when necessary to promote public health, safety, and welfare. However, the Legislature also finds that such information is both confidential to the pet owner and proprietary for the veterinarian and should be distributed only when the public health, safety, and welfare demand. Rabies certificates include personal information about individual pet owners which, when compiled, can be used to produce the client list of each veterinarian who has complied with the provisions of s. 828.30, Florida Statutes, which requires the filing of a copy of rabies vaccination certificates with the local animal control authority. Such

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1 lists are trade secrets as defined by s. 812.081, Florida
2 Statutes. The Legislature finds that it is a public necessity
3 that trade secret information be expressly made confidential
4 and exempt from public records law because it is a felony to
5 disclose such records. Thus, the public and private harm in
6 disclosing trade secrets significantly outweighs any public
7 benefit derived from disclosure, and the public's ability to
8 scrutinize and monitor agency action is not diminished by
9 nondisclosure of trade secrets. Release of such information
10 for reasons outside the scope of public health, safety, and
11 welfare unnecessarily jeopardizes the right to privacy of pet
12 owners who have their pets vaccinated and, further, negatively
13 impacts veterinarians submitting rabies vaccination
14 certificates by making the identities of their clients readily
15 available to competing business interests. Furthermore,
16 veterinarians are subject to medical confidentiality
17 provisions. Release of identifying information in the rabies
18 vaccination certificate for reasons other than the protection
19 of public health, safety, and welfare could represent a breach
20 of client confidentiality. In addition, release of the
21 information contained in a rabies vaccination certificate
22 could subject pet owners to possible theft or harassment by
23 individuals who target particular breeds, as well as to
24 solicitations, including solicitations from competing
25 veterinary business interests. Owners could become reluctant
26 to have their pets vaccinated against rabies. Any decrease in
27 the number of dogs and cats vaccinated against rabies would
28 hinder the ability of animal control authorities to protect
29 the public against the spread of rabies and endanger the
30 public health, safety, and welfare.

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