

By the Committee on Agriculture; and Senators Baker, Peaden, Bullard, Lawson, Bennett, Campbell and Fasano

575-1932-05

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A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to animal health care services;  
amending s. 474.203, F.S.; providing that ch.  
474, F.S., related to veterinary medical  
practice, does not apply to certain persons who  
are under the supervision of an animal's owner  
or to certain persons providing specific  
services to horse owners; providing an  
effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (5) of section 474.203, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

474.203 Exemptions.--This chapter shall not apply to:

(5) Any person, ~~or~~ the person's regular employee, or an independent contractor under the supervision of such person who is 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 has been transferred or employment provided for the purpose of circumventing this law. An independent contractor may not advertise in any way that implies that he or she is a veterinarian. In the advertising, it must also contain a statement that he or she is not a veterinarian and has no veterinary medical training. In addition, a horse owner may engage a farrier to provide routine hoof maintenance, equine dental technicians to provide routine hand floating of teeth, and other persons to provide hands-on healing, homeopathy, nutritional counseling, and any other therapies not considered to be the practice of veterinary medicine by the board. This

1 | exemption ~~does shall~~ not apply to out-of-state veterinarians  
2 | practicing temporarily in the state. However, only a  
3 | veterinarian may immunize or treat an animal for diseases that  
4 | ~~which~~ are communicable to humans and ~~which~~ are of a public  
5 | health significance.

6 |           Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
7 | law.

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9 |                           STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
10 |   COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
11 |   Senate Bill 958

12 | Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 958 is different from  
13 | Senate Bill 958 in that it:

- 14 | 1. Amends s. 474.203, F.S., relating to veterinary medical  
15 | practice, to provide that this section does not apply to  
16 | an independent contractor who is under the supervision of  
17 | a person who is administering to the ills or injuries of  
18 | her or his own animals.
- 19 | 2. Prohibits an independent contractor to advertise in any  
20 | way that implies that he or she is a veterinarian
- 21 | 3. Eliminates a definition for the term "animal."
- 22 | 4. Eliminates the authority that SB 958 gave the Department  
23 | of Agriculture and Consumer Services to institute a civil  
24 | action against violators of the act and to impose and  
25 | collect penalties.
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