

By Senator Baker

20-880B-06

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to animal health care services;
3 amending s. 474.203, F.S.; providing that ch.
4 474, F.S., relating to veterinary medical
5 practice, does not apply to an independent
6 contractor who provides nonmedical health care
7 services to an animal under the supervision of
8 the owner of the animal; requiring that an
9 independent contractor who provides nonmedical
10 health care services for animals comply with
11 certain requirements; providing an effective
12 date.

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

16 Section 1. Subsection (9) is added to section 474.203,
17 Florida Statutes, to read:

18 474.203 Exemptions.--This chapter shall not apply to:

19 (9) An independent contractor who, under the
20 supervision of a person who is administering to the ills or
21 injuries of his or her own livestock, herd, or avian animals,
22 provides nonmedical health care services to the animals,
23 including, but not limited to, acupressure, aromatherapy,
24 animal communication, farriery, flower essence therapy,
25 homeopathy, light therapy, magnet therapy, massage therapy,
26 hydrotherapy, nutritional counseling, debeaking, dehorning,
27 and manual equine teeth floating. The owner of a herd animal
28 that is raised for food or fiber may engage independent
29 contractors to provide routine herd-management tasks,
30 including, but not limited to, castration and parasite
31 control. An independent contractor who provides nonmedical

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

- 1 health care services for animals and is not a veterinarian
- 2 must:
- 3 (a) Obtain an occupational license from his or her
- 4 county of residence;
- 5 (b) Advise each owner of an animal that will be
- 6 treated of his or her knowledge or experience with the
- 7 services that will be provided;
- 8 (c) Produce his or her credentials upon the request of
- 9 an owner of an animal that is being treated;
- 10 (d) Refrain from engaging in animal cruelty; and
- 11 (e) Refrain from advertising in any way that implies
- 12 that he or she is a veterinarian.

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14 For the purposes of chapters 465 and 893, persons exempt

15 pursuant to subsection (1), subsection (2), or subsection (4)

16 are deemed to be duly licensed practitioners authorized by the

17 laws of this state to prescribe drugs or medicinal supplies.

18 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.

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21 SENATE SUMMARY

22 Provides that ch. 474, F.S., related to veterinary

23 medical practice, does not apply to an independent

24 contractor who provides nonmedical health care services

25 to an animal under the supervision of the owner of the

26 animal. Requires that an independent contractor who

27 provides nonmedical health care services for animals

28 comply with certain requirements.

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