

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to public records; creating s.
 3 474.2167, F.S.; providing an exemption from public
 4 records requirements for medical records related to
 5 the medical condition and treatment of an animal by an
 6 accredited state college of veterinary medicine and
 7 for records transferred by a previous records owner in
 8 connection with specified transactions; authorizing
 9 certain disclosure of such information; providing
 10 applicability; providing for future legislative review
 11 and repeal of the exemption; providing a statement of
 12 public necessity; providing an effective date.

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

15
 16 Section 1. Section 474.2167, Florida Statutes, is created
 17 to read:

18 474.2167 Confidentiality of animal medical records.-

19 (1) The following records held by a state college of
 20 veterinary medicine and accredited by the American Veterinary
 21 Medical Association Council on Education are confidential and
 22 exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State
 23 Constitution:

24 (a) Any medical record generated that relates to
 25 diagnosing the medical condition of an animal; prescribing,
 26 dispensing, or administering drugs, medicine, appliances,

27 applications, or treatment of any nature for the prevention,
28 cure, or relief of a wound, fracture, bodily injury, or disease
29 thereof to an animal; or performing a manual procedure for the
30 diagnosis of or treatment for the pregnancy, fertility, or
31 infertility of an animal.

32 (b) Any such medical record that is transferred by a
33 previous records owner in connection with a transaction of
34 official business by a state college of veterinary medicine and
35 accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association
36 Council on Education.

37 (2) Records made confidential and exempt by this section
38 may be disclosed to a governmental entity in the performance of
39 its duties and responsibilities.

40 (3) This exemption applies to records described in
41 subsection (1) held before, on, or after the effective date of
42 this exemption.

43 (4) This section is subject to the Open Government Sunset
44 Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed
45 on October 2, 2020, unless reviewed and saved from repeal
46 through reenactment by the Legislature.

47 Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public
48 necessity that any medical record generated that relates to
49 diagnosing the medical condition of an animal; prescribing,
50 dispensing, or administering drugs, medicine, appliances,
51 applications, or treatment of any nature for the prevention,
52 cure, or relief of a wound, fracture, bodily injury, or disease

53 thereof to any animal; or performing a manual procedure for the
54 diagnosis of or treatment for the pregnancy, fertility or
55 infertility of an animal that is held by a state college of
56 veterinary medicine and accredited by the American Veterinary
57 Medical Association Council on Education be made confidential
58 and exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a),
59 Article I of the State Constitution. The Legislature also finds
60 that it is a public necessity that any such medical record that
61 is transferred by a previous records owner in connection with a
62 transaction of official business by a state college of
63 veterinary medicine and accredited by the American Veterinary
64 Medical Association Council on Education and that is held by
65 such college be made confidential and exempt from public records
66 requirements. The Legislature finds that the release of such
67 medical records will compromise the confidentiality protections
68 otherwise afforded to animals treated by licensed veterinarians
69 and the owners or agents of such animals. The Legislature also
70 finds that such owners or agents have the right to privacy of
71 the medical records of their animals. The Legislature further
72 finds that the privacy concerns that result from the release of
73 such animal medical records outweigh any public benefit that may
74 be derived from the disclosure of such information.

75 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.