${\bf By}$ Senator Ring

<pre>14 read: 15 <u>768.139 Damages in actions against veterinarians for the</u> 16 <u>death of a companion animal</u> 17 <u>(1) For the purpose of this section, the term:</u> 18 <u>(a) "Companion animal" means a domesticated animal that is</u> 19 <u>in a close daily relationship with its owner.</u> 20 <u>(b) "Veterinarian" means an individual who practices in</u> 21 <u>veterinary medicine as regulated under chapter 474.</u> 22 <u>(2) An owner, in any action against a veterinarian for the</u> 23 <u>death of his or her companion animal which resulted from a</u> 24 <u>veterinarian's negligence or recklessness, is entitled to</u></pre>		29-00423-16 2016680
768.139, F.S.; defining the terms "companion animal" and "veterinarian"; authorizing the award of damages to an owner for loss of companionship in an action against a veterinarian for the death of his or her companion animal which resulted from the veterinarian's negligence or recklessness; providing an effective date. Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: Section 1. Section 768.139, Florida Statutes, is created to read: <u>768.139 Damages in actions against veterinarians for the</u> death of a companion animal.— (1) For the purpose of this section, the term: (a) "Companion animal" means a domesticated animal that is in a close daily relationship with its owner. (b) "Veterinarian" means an individual who practices in veterinary medicine as regulated under chapter 474. (2) An owner, in any action against a veterinarian for the death of his or her companion animal which resulted from a veterinarian's negligence or recklessness, is entitled to	1	A bill to be entitled
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26 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.	26	Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.

Page 1 of 1

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