

2021388e1

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to injured police canines; creating s.
3 401.254, F.S.; defining the term "police canine";
4 authorizing licensed life support services to
5 transport injured police canines under certain
6 circumstances; authorizing a paramedic or an emergency
7 medical technician to provide emergency medical care
8 to injured police canines under certain circumstances;
9 providing for immunity from criminal and civil
10 liability under certain circumstances; amending s.
11 474.203, F.S.; providing applicability; providing an
12 effective date.

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

15
16 Section 1. Section 401.254, Florida Statutes, is created to
17 read:

18 401.254 Treatment of injured police canines.—

19 (1) As used in this section, the term "police canine" means
20 any canine that is owned, or the service of which is employed,
21 by a state or local law enforcement agency, a correctional
22 agency, a fire department, a special fire district, or the State
23 Fire Marshal for the principal purpose of aiding in the
24 detection of criminal activity, flammable materials, or missing
25 persons; the enforcement of laws; the investigation of fires; or
26 the apprehension of offenders.

27 (2) A licensee with a valid permit for the transport
28 vehicle may transport a police canine injured in the line of
29 duty to a veterinary clinic or similar facility if there is no

2021388e1

30 individual requiring medical attention or transport at that
31 time.

32 (3) Notwithstanding s. 474.213, a paramedic or an emergency
33 medical technician may provide emergency medical care to a
34 police canine injured in the line of duty while at the scene of
35 the emergency or while the police canine is being transported to
36 a veterinary clinic or similar facility. A paramedic or an
37 emergency medical technician who acts in good faith to provide
38 emergency medical care to an injured police canine is immune
39 from criminal or civil liability.

40 Section 2. Subsection (10) is added to section 474.203,
41 Florida Statutes, to read:

42 474.203 Exemptions.—This chapter does not apply to:

43 (10) A paramedic or an emergency medical technician
44 providing emergency medical care to a police canine injured in
45 the line of duty as authorized under s. 401.254.

46
47 For the purposes of chapters 465 and 893, persons exempt
48 pursuant to subsection (1), subsection (2), or subsection (4)
49 are deemed to be duly licensed practitioners authorized by the
50 laws of this state to prescribe drugs or medicinal supplies.

51 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.