

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
 17 to read:

18 401.254 Treatment of injured police canines.-

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

26 | fires; or 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, hospital emergency department, or
 30 | similar facility if there is no individual requiring medical
 31 | attention or transport at that time.

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

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

43 | 474.203 Exemptions.—This chapter does not apply to:

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

47 |
 48 | For the purposes of chapters 465 and 893, persons exempt
 49 | pursuant to subsection (1), subsection (2), or subsection (4)
 50 | are deemed to be duly licensed practitioners authorized by the

HB 697

2021

51 | laws of this state to prescribe drugs or medicinal supplies.
52 | Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.