

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 or similar facility if there is no
 30 | individual requiring medical attention or transport at that
 31 | 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 or similar facility. A
 37 | paramedic or an emergency medical technician who acts in good
 38 | faith to provide emergency medical care to an injured police
 39 | canine is immune 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. |