



776064

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

.  
. .  
. .  
. .  
. .

House

---

The Committee on Regulated Industries (Brodeur) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete everything after the enacting clause  
and insert:

Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Providing Equity  
in Telemedicine Services (PETS) Act."

Section 2. Subsection (14) is added to section 474.202,  
Florida Statutes, to read:

474.202 Definitions.—As used in this chapter:

(14) "Veterinary telemedicine" means the use of synchronous



776064

11 telecommunications technology by a veterinarian who has an  
12 established veterinarian/client/patient relationship or has  
13 access to and has reviewed the patient's relevant medical  
14 records from a veterinarian who has an established  
15 veterinarian/client/patient relationship, to provide veterinary  
16 services, including, but not limited to, consultation,  
17 evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment of a patient; transfer of  
18 medical records; and exchange of information with a client.

19 Section 3. Section 474.2021, Florida Statutes, is created  
20 to read:

21 474.2021 Veterinary telemedicine.-

22 (1) A veterinarian may practice telemedicine.

23 (2) A veterinarian practicing veterinary telemedicine shall  
24 take the appropriate steps, as defined by the Board of  
25 Veterinary Medicine, to establish the  
26 veterinarian/client/patient relationship and provide quality of  
27 care consistent with the prevailing professional standards of  
28 care for a veterinarian in this state. The board may not require  
29 a veterinarian practicing veterinary telemedicine to perform an  
30 in-person physical examination of a patient in order to  
31 establish the veterinarian/client/patient relationship or  
32 prescribe medicine or other treatment to the patient.

33 (3) A veterinarian practicing veterinary telemedicine may  
34 order, prescribe, or make available medicinal drugs or drugs as  
35 defined in chapter 465.

36 (4) A veterinarian practicing veterinary telemedicine may  
37 not use veterinary telemedicine to order, prescribe, or make  
38 available controlled substances listed in Schedule II of s.  
39 893.03 unless the controlled substance is ordered, prescribed,



776064

40 or made available for the treatment of a terminal patient that  
41 is transferred to a consulting veterinarian practicing  
42 veterinary telemedicine for hospice care services by a  
43 veterinarian who has previously performed an in-person physical  
44 examination of the patient and provided or made medically  
45 appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animal  
46 is kept, and the veterinarian has reviewed the patient's medical  
47 records with the consulting veterinarian practicing veterinary  
48 telemedicine.

49 (5) A veterinarian must hold a current license to practice  
50 veterinary medicine in this state in order to practice  
51 veterinary telemedicine. The practice of veterinary medicine is  
52 deemed to occur at the premises where the patient is located at  
53 the time the veterinarian practices veterinary telemedicine.

54 (6) The board has jurisdiction over a veterinarian  
55 practicing veterinary telemedicine in this state, regardless of  
56 where the veterinarian's physical office is located. The  
57 practice of veterinary telemedicine in accordance with this  
58 section is not a standard of care violation, and a veterinarian  
59 may not be disciplined solely for practicing veterinary  
60 telemedicine.

61 Section 4. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section  
62 474.203, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

63 474.203 Exemptions.—This chapter does not apply to:

64 (5) (a) Any person, or the person's regular employee,  
65 administering to the ills or injuries of her or his own animals,  
66 including, but not limited to, castration, spaying, and  
67 dehorning of herd animals, unless title is transferred or  
68 employment provided for the purpose of circumventing this law.



776064

69 This exemption does not apply to any person licensed as a  
70 veterinarian in another state or foreign jurisdiction and  
71 practicing temporarily in this state. However, except as  
72 provided in s. 828.30, only a veterinarian may immunize or treat  
73 an animal for diseases that are communicable to humans and that  
74 are of public health significance.

75  
76 For the purposes of chapters 465 and 893, persons exempt  
77 pursuant to subsection (1), subsection (2), or subsection (4)  
78 are deemed to be duly licensed practitioners authorized by the  
79 laws of this state to prescribe drugs or medicinal supplies.

80 Section 5. Paragraph (y) of subsection (1) of section  
81 474.214, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

82 474.214 Disciplinary proceedings.—

83 (1) The following acts shall constitute grounds for which  
84 the disciplinary actions in subsection (2) may be taken:

85 (y) Using the privilege of ordering, prescribing, or making  
86 available medicinal drugs or drugs as defined in chapter 465, or  
87 controlled substances as defined in chapter 893, for use other  
88 than for the specific treatment of animal patients for which  
89 there is a documented veterinarian/client/patient relationship.

90 ~~Pursuant thereto,~~ The veterinarian shall:

91 1. Have sufficient knowledge of the animal or group of  
92 animals to initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis  
93 of the medical condition of the animal or group of animals,  
94 which means that the veterinarian is personally acquainted with  
95 the keeping and caring of the animal or group of animals and has  
96 recently performed an examination of the animal or group of  
97 animals either in person or by the use of veterinary



776064

98 telemedicine in compliance with s. 474.2021, ~~seen the animal~~ or  
99 has made medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises  
100 where the animal or group of animals is kept.

101 2. Be available or provide for follow-up ~~followup~~ care and  
102 treatment in case of adverse reactions or failure of the regimen  
103 of therapy.

104 3. Maintain records which document patient visits,  
105 diagnosis, treatment, and other relevant information required  
106 under this chapter.

107 Section 6. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 828.30,  
108 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

109 828.30 Rabies vaccination of dogs, cats, and ferrets.—

110 (1) (a) All dogs, cats, and ferrets 4 months of age or older  
111 must be vaccinated by a licensed veterinarian or, in the case of  
112 impounded animals, a person authorized under paragraph (b),  
113 against rabies with a vaccine ~~that is~~ licensed by the United  
114 States Department of Agriculture for use in those species.

115 (b) An employee, an agent, or a contractor of an animal  
116 control authority acting under the indirect supervision of a  
117 veterinarian may vaccinate impounded dogs, cats, and ferrets  
118 that will be transferred, rescued, fostered, adopted, or  
119 reclaimed by the owner. The supervising veterinarian assumes  
120 responsibility for any person vaccinating animals at his or her  
121 direction or under his or her supervision. As used in this  
122 paragraph, the term "indirect supervision" means that the  
123 supervising veterinarian is required to be available for  
124 consultation through telecommunications but is not required to  
125 be physically present during such consultation.

126 (c) The owner of every dog, cat, and ferret shall have the



776064

127 animal revaccinated 12 months after the initial vaccination.  
128 Thereafter, the interval between vaccinations shall conform to  
129 the vaccine manufacturer's directions. The cost of vaccination  
130 must be borne by the animal's owner. Evidence of circulating  
131 rabies virus neutralizing antibodies may ~~shall~~ not be used as a  
132 substitute for current vaccination in managing rabies exposure  
133 or determining the need for booster vaccinations.

134 (3) Upon vaccination against rabies, the licensed  
135 veterinarian shall provide the animal's owner and the animal  
136 control authority with a rabies vaccination certificate. Each  
137 animal control authority and veterinarian shall use the "Rabies  
138 Vaccination Certificate" of the National Association of State  
139 Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV) or an equivalent form  
140 approved by the local government which ~~that~~ contains ~~all~~ the  
141 information required by the NASPHV Rabies Vaccination  
142 Certificate. The veterinarian who administers the rabies  
143 vaccination, or who supervises the administration of the rabies  
144 vaccination as provided in paragraph (1)(b), vaccine to an  
145 animal as authorized ~~required~~ under this section may affix his  
146 or her signature stamp in lieu of an actual signature.

147 Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.

148  
149 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

150 And the title is amended as follows:

151 Delete everything before the enacting clause  
152 and insert:

153 A bill to be entitled  
154 An act relating to the medical treatment of animals;  
155 providing a short title; amending s. 474.202, F.S.;



776064

156 defining the term "veterinary telemedicine"; creating  
157 s. 474.2021, F.S.; authorizing the use of veterinary  
158 telemedicine; requiring veterinarians to take certain  
159 appropriate steps to establish a  
160 veterinarian/client/patient relationship and meet  
161 certain professional standards to practice veterinary  
162 telemedicine; authorizing a veterinarian practicing  
163 veterinary telemedicine to order, prescribe, or make  
164 available certain drugs; prohibiting a veterinarian  
165 practicing veterinary telemedicine from ordering,  
166 prescribing, or making available specified controlled  
167 substances; providing an exception; providing  
168 licensure requirements to practice veterinary  
169 telemedicine; providing jurisdiction of the Florida  
170 Board of Veterinary Medicine; providing construction;  
171 amending s. 474.203, F.S.; providing an exception to  
172 who may immunize or treat an animal for certain  
173 diseases; amending s. 474.214, F.S.; revising grounds  
174 for disciplinary action against a veterinarian;  
175 amending s. 828.30, F.S.; authorizing certain  
176 employees, agents, or contractors to administer rabies  
177 vaccinations under certain circumstances; providing  
178 that a supervising veterinarian assumes responsibility  
179 for any person vaccinating animals at the supervising  
180 veterinarian's discretion or under his or her  
181 supervision; defining the term "indirect supervision";  
182 authorizing a veterinarian who indirectly supervises  
183 the administration of the rabies vaccination to affix  
184 his or her signature stamp on a rabies vaccination



776064

185

certificate; providing an effective date.