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1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to veterinary professional associates; 3 providing a short title; creating s. 474.2126, F.S.; 4 providing legislative findings; defining terms; 5 authorizing certain individuals to use the title 6 "veterinary professional associate"; authorizing such 7 associates to perform certain duties and actions; 8 prohibiting such associates from prescribing certain 9 drugs or controlled substances or performing surgical procedures; providing exceptions; providing that 10 11 supervising veterinarians are liable for the acts or omissions of veterinary professional associates under 12 13 their supervision and control; providing an effective 14 date. 15 16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 17 18 Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Veterinary 19 Workforce Innovation Act." 20 Section 2. Section 474.2126, Florida Statutes, is created 21 to read: 474.2126 Veterinary professional associate.-22 23 The Legislature finds that the practice in this state 24 of veterinary professional associates, with their education, 25 training, and experience in the field of veterinary medicine,

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

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will provide increased efficiency of and access to high-quality veterinary medical services at a reasonable cost to consumers.

(2) As used in this section, the term:

- (a) "Approved program" means a master's program in veterinary clinical care, or the equivalent, in the United States or in its territories or possessions from an accredited school of veterinary medicine.
- (b) "Supervision" means responsible supervision and control, and, except in cases of emergency, requires the easy availability or physical presence of a licensed veterinarian for consultation and direction of the actions of a veterinary professional associate. For the purposes of this paragraph, the term "easy availability" includes the ability to communicate by way of telecommunication.
- (c) "Veterinary professional associate" means a person who has earned a master's degree from an approved program or who meets standards approved by the board and is authorized to perform veterinary medical services delegated by a supervising veterinarian.
- (3) The title "veterinary professional associate" may be used only by an individual who has successfully completed an approved program.
- (4) Unless otherwise prohibited by federal or state law, a veterinary professional associate may perform duties or actions, including those identified in s. 474.202(9) and (13), in which

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he or she is competent and has the necessary training, current
knowledge, and experience to perform, as assigned by a
veterinarian licensed in this state while working under the
supervision of that veterinarian. A veterinary professional
associate may not do either of the following:
(a) Prescribe medicinal drugs or drugs as defined in s.
465.003(15) or a controlled substance listed in s. 893.03.
(b) Except for veterinary sterilizations or veterinary
dental surgeries, perform a surgical procedure.
(5) Each supervising veterinarian using a veterinary
professional associate is liable for any acts or omissions of
the veterinary professional associate acting under the
veterinarian's supervision and control.
Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.