By Senator Bradley

	6-00499A-25 2025652
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
7	veterinary professional associates to perform certain
8	duties only while under the responsible supervision of
9	a licensed veterinarian; prohibiting such associates
10	from prescribing certain drugs or controlled
11	substances or performing certain surgical procedures;
12	providing exceptions; providing that supervising
13	veterinarians are liable for the acts or omissions of
14	veterinary professional associates under their
15	supervision; providing an effective date.
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17	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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19	Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Veterinary
20	Workforce Innovation Act."
21	Section 2. Section 474.2126, Florida Statutes, is created
22	to read:
23	474.2126 Veterinary professional associate
24	(1) The Legislature finds that the practice of educated,
25	trained, and experienced veterinary professional associates will
26	increase consumers' access to high-quality veterinary medical
27	services, at a reasonable cost to consumers, while also
28	increasing the efficiency of the practice of veterinary medicine
29	in this state.

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36 has earned a master's degree from an approved program and is 37 authorized to perform veterinary medical services delegated by a 38 supervising veterinarian. 39 (3) The title "veterinary professional associate" may be 40 used only by an individual who has successfully completed an 41 approved program and passed a national competency examination. 42 (4) Unless otherwise prohibited by federal or state law, a		6-00499A-25 2025652
veterinary clinical care, or the equivalent, from a school of veterinary medicine in the United States or in its territories or possessions. (b) "Veterinary professional associate" means a person who has earned a master's degree from an approved program 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 and passed a national competency examination. (4) Unless otherwise prohibited by federal or state law, a veterinary professional associate may perform duties or actions, including duties or actions in s. 474.202(9) and (13), in which he or she possesses the competence, necessary training, current knowledge, and experience to perform the assigned duties. The veterinary professional associate may perform only the duties assigned to him or her while under the responsible supervision, as defined in s. 474.202, of a licensed veterinarian, except when immediate supervision is required as provided in paragraph (5) (b).	30	(2) As used in this section, the term:
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53 <u>of the following:</u>		(5) A veterinary professional associate may not do either
	53	of the following:
54 (a) Unless otherwise authorized by state or federal law,	54	
55 prescribe medicinal drugs or drugs as defined in s. 465.003(15)	55	prescribe medicinal drugs or drugs as defined in s. 465.003(15)
56 or a controlled substance listed in chapter 893.		or a controlled substance listed in chapter 893.
57 (b) Perform a surgical procedure, except for veterinary		
58 sterilizations or surgical procedures that do not enter a body	58	sterilizations or surgical procedures that do not enter a body

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59	cavity. Surgical procedures must be performed under immediate
60	supervision, as defined in s. 474.202, of a licensed
61	veterinarian.
62	(6) A licensed veterinarian who assigns duties or actions
63	to a veterinary professional associate is liable for any act or
64	omission of the veterinary professional associate acting under
65	the licensed veterinarian's supervision.
66	Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.