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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.; providing legislative findings; defining terms; 4 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 substances or performing certain surgical procedures; 11 12 providing exceptions; providing that supervising veterinarians are liable for the acts or omissions of 13 14 veterinary professional associates under their supervision; providing an effective date. 15 16 17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 18 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 Page 1 of 3

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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. 30 (2) As used in this section, the term: "Approved program" means a master's program in 31 (a) 32 veterinary clinical care, or the equivalent, from a school of 33 veterinary medicine in the United States or in its territories 34 or possessions. 35 (b) "Veterinary professional associate" means a person who 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. (3) The title "veterinary professional associate" may be 39 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 43 veterinary professional associate may perform duties or actions, 44 including duties or actions in s. 474.202(9) and (13), in which 45 he or she possesses the competence, necessary training, current 46 knowledge, and experience to perform the assigned duties. The 47 veterinary professional associate may perform only the duties 48 assigned to him or her while under the responsible supervision, as defined in s. 474.202, of a licensed veterinarian, except 49 50 when immediate supervision is required as provided in paragraph

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51	<u>(5)(b).</u>
52	(5) A veterinary professional associate may not do either
53	of the following:
54	(a) Unless otherwise authorized by state or federal law,
55	prescribe medicinal drugs or drugs as defined in s. 465.003(15)
56	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
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.
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