

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 life support services to transport injured  
 5           police canines under certain circumstances;  
 6           authorizing a paramedic or an emergency medical  
 7           technician to provide emergency medical care to  
 8           injured police canines under certain circumstances;  
 9           providing immunities; amending s. 474.203, F.S.;  
 10          creating an exemption; providing an effective date.

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 12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 14           Section 1. Section 401.254, Florida Statutes, is created  
 15 to read:

16           401.254 Treatment of injured police canines.—

17           (1) As used in this section, the term "police canine"  
 18 means any canine that is owned, or the service of which is  
 19 employed, by a state or local law enforcement agency, a  
 20 correctional agency, a fire department, a special fire district,  
 21 or the State Fire Marshal for the principal purpose of aiding in  
 22 the detection of criminal activity, flammable materials, or  
 23 missing persons; enforcement of laws; investigation of fires; or  
 24 apprehension of offenders.

25           (2) A licensee with a valid permit for its transport

26 | vehicle may transport a police canine injured in the line of  
27 | duty to a veterinary clinic, hospital emergency department, or  
28 | similar facility if there is no individual requiring medical  
29 | attention or transport at that time.

30 | (3) Notwithstanding s. 474.213, a paramedic or an  
31 | emergency medical technician may provide emergency medical care  
32 | to a police canine injured in the line of duty while at the  
33 | scene of the emergency or while the police canine is being  
34 | transported to a veterinary clinic, hospital emergency  
35 | department, or similar facility. A paramedic or an emergency  
36 | medical technician who acts in good faith to provide emergency  
37 | medical care to an injured police canine is immune from criminal  
38 | or civil liability.

39 | Section 2. Subsection (9) is added to section 474.203,  
40 | Florida Statutes, to read:

41 | 474.203 Exemptions.—This chapter does not apply to:

42 | (9) A paramedic or an emergency medical technician  
43 | providing emergency medical care to a police canine injured in  
44 | the line of duty as authorized under s. 401.254.

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46 | For the purposes of chapters 465 and 893, persons exempt  
47 | pursuant to subsection (1), subsection (2), or subsection (4)  
48 | are deemed to be duly licensed practitioners authorized by the  
49 | laws of this state to prescribe drugs or medicinal supplies.

50 | Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.