

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to public records; creating s.
 3 474.2167, F.S.; providing an exemption from public
 4 records requirements for medical records related to
 5 the medical condition and treatment of an animal by an
 6 accredited state college of veterinary medicine and
 7 for records transferred by a previous records owner in
 8 connection with specified transactions; authorizing
 9 certain disclosure of such information; providing
 10 applicability; providing for future legislative review
 11 and repeal of the exemption; providing a statement of
 12 public necessity; providing an effective date.

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

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 16 Section 1. Section 474.2167, Florida Statutes, is created
 17 to read:

18 474.2167 Confidentiality of animal medical records.-

19 (1) The following records held by a state college of
 20 veterinary medicine and accredited by the American Veterinary
 21 Medical Association Council on Education are confidential and
 22 exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State
 23 Constitution:

24 (a) Any medical record generated that relates to
 25 diagnosing the medical condition of an animal; prescribing,
 26 dispensing, or administering drugs, medicine, appliances,

27 applications, or treatment of any nature for the prevention,
28 cure, or relief of a wound, fracture, bodily injury, or disease
29 thereof to an animal; or performing a manual procedure for the
30 diagnosis of or treatment for the pregnancy, fertility, or
31 infertility of an animal.

32 (b) Any such medical record that is transferred by a
33 previous records owner in connection with a transaction of
34 official business by a state college of veterinary medicine and
35 accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association
36 Council on Education.

37 (2) Records made confidential and exempt by this section
38 may be disclosed to a governmental entity in the performance of
39 its duties and responsibilities and may be disclosed pursuant to
40 s. 474.2165.

41 (3) The exemption from public records requirements under
42 subsection (1) applies to animal medical records held before,
43 on, or after the effective date of this exemption.

44 (4) This section is subject to the Open Government Sunset
45 Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed
46 on October 2, 2020, unless reviewed and saved from repeal
47 through reenactment by the Legislature.

48 Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public
49 necessity that a medical record that relates to diagnosing the
50 medical condition of an animal; prescribing, dispensing, or
51 administering drugs, medicine, appliances, applications, or
52 treatment of whatever nature for the prevention, cure, or relief

53 of a wound, fracture, bodily injury, or disease of an animal; or
54 performing a manual procedure for the diagnosis of or treatment
55 for pregnancy or fertility or infertility of an animal, which is
56 held by a state college of veterinary medicine that is
57 accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association
58 Council on Education, be made confidential and exempt from s.
59 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the
60 State Constitution. The Legislature finds that it is a public
61 necessity that any such medical record that is transferred by a
62 previous records owner in connection with the transaction of
63 official business by a state college of veterinary medicine that
64 is accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association
65 Council on Education and that is held by such state college be
66 made confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida
67 Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution. The
68 Legislature finds that it is a public necessity that this
69 exemption apply to such animal medical records held by such
70 state college before, on, or after the effective date of this
71 exemption. The Legislature finds that the release of such animal
72 medical records compromises the confidentiality protections
73 otherwise afforded to the owners of such animals treated by
74 licensed veterinarians in this state pursuant to chapter 474,
75 Florida Statutes. The Legislature finds that the owners of
76 animals have the right to the privacy of the medical records of
77 their animals. The Legislature finds that this exemption permits
78 a state college of veterinary medicine that is accredited by the

CS/CS/HB 1287

2015

79 American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education to
80 effectively and efficiently carry out its mission to educate
81 students in veterinary medicine. Without the exemption, this
82 mission would be significantly impaired. The Legislature finds
83 that the privacy concerns that result from the release of such
84 animal medical records outweigh any public benefit that may be
85 derived from the disclosure of such information.

86 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.