

House Bill No. 641

An act relating to animal service providers; amending s. 474.203, F.S.; providing that ch. 474, F.S., relating to veterinary medical practice, does not apply to a part-time worker or an independent contractor who is hired by an owner to provide certain services; providing for retroactive effect; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (5) of section 474.203, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

474.203 Exemptions.—This chapter shall not apply to:

(5)(a) Any person, or the person's regular employee, administering to the ills or injuries of her or his own animals, including, but not limited to, castration, spaying, and dehorning of herd animals, unless title has been transferred or employment provided for the purpose of circumventing this law. This exemption shall not apply to out-of-state veterinarians practicing temporarily in the state. However, only a veterinarian may immunize or treat an animal for diseases which are communicable to humans and which are of public health significance.

(b) A person hired on a part-time or temporary basis, or as an independent contractor, by an owner to assist with herd management and animal husbandry tasks for herd and flock animals, including castration, dehorning, parasite control, and debeaking, or a person hired on a part-time or temporary basis, or as an independent contractor, by an owner to provide farriery and manual hand floating of teeth on equines.

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

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law and shall apply retroactively to January 1, 2006.

Approved by the Governor June 9, 2006.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 9, 2006.