

CHAPTER 2021-119

Senate Bill No. 388

An act relating to injured police canines; creating s. 401.254, F.S.; defining the term “police canine”; authorizing licensed life support services to transport injured police canines under certain circumstances; authorizing a paramedic or an emergency medical technician to provide emergency medical care to injured police canines under certain circumstances; providing for immunity from criminal and civil liability under certain circumstances; amending s. 474.203, F.S.; providing applicability; providing an effective date.

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

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

401.254 Treatment of injured police canines.—

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

(2) A licensee with a valid permit for the transport vehicle may transport a police canine injured in the line of duty to a veterinary clinic or similar facility if there is no individual requiring medical attention or transport at that time.

(3) Notwithstanding s. 474.213, a paramedic or an emergency medical technician may provide emergency medical care to a police canine injured in the line of duty while at the scene of the emergency or while the police canine is being transported to a veterinary clinic or similar facility. A paramedic or an emergency medical technician who acts in good faith to provide emergency medical care to an injured police canine is immune from criminal or civil liability.

Section 2. Subsection (10) is added to section 474.203, Florida Statutes, to read:

474.203 Exemptions.—This chapter does not apply to:

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

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 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.

Approved by the Governor June 18, 2021.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 18, 2021.