



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB2542

Introduced 2/15/2023, by Rep. Joyce Mason

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

210 ILCS 50/3.260 new
225 ILCS 115/4

from Ch. 111, par. 7004

Amends the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems Act. Provides that emergency medical (EMS) personnel may provide preveterinary emergency care to a dog or cat to the extent the EMS personnel have received commensurate training and are authorized by their employer to provide care. Provides that requirements governing the circumstances under which EMS personnel may provide preveterinary emergency care to dogs and cats may be specified in the employer's policies governing the provision of care. Contains language stating that nothing in the Act imposes upon EMS personnel any obligation to provide care to a dog or cat or to provide care to a dog or cat before a person. Amends the Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act of 2004. Provides that nothing in that Act shall apply to EMS personnel who provide preveterinary emergency care to a dog or cat under the amended provisions of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems Act. Effective immediately.

LRB103 27137 CPF 53506 b

1 AN ACT concerning health.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems
5 Act is amended by adding Section 3.260 as follows:

6 (210 ILCS 50/3.260 new)

7 Sec. 3.260. Preveterinary emergency care.

8 (a) In this Section:

9 "Cat" means a small domesticated feline animal that is
10 kept as a pet. "Cat" does not include a nondomesticated wild
11 animal.

12 "Dog" means any canine animal owned for domestic,
13 companionship, service, therapeutic, or assistance purposes.

14 "Preveterinary emergency care" means the immediate medical
15 stabilization of a dog or cat by EMS personnel, in an emergency
16 to which the EMS personnel is responding, through means
17 including oxygen, bandaging, or basic first aid, with the
18 intent of enabling the dog or cat to be treated by a
19 veterinarian. "Preveterinary emergency care" does not include
20 care provided in response to an emergency call made solely for
21 the purpose of tending to an injured dog or cat, unless a
22 person's life could be in danger by attempting to save the life
23 of a dog or cat.

1 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, EMS
2 personnel may provide preveterinary emergency care to a dog or
3 cat to the extent the EMS personnel have received commensurate
4 training and are authorized by their employer to provide care.
5 Requirements governing the circumstances under which EMS
6 personnel may provide preveterinary emergency care to dogs and
7 cats may be specified in the employer's policies governing the
8 provision of care.

9 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, nothing in
10 this Act imposes upon EMS personnel any obligation to provide
11 care to a dog or cat, or to provide care to a dog or cat before
12 a person.

13 Section 10. The Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice
14 Act of 2004 is amended by changing Section 4 as follows:

15 (225 ILCS 115/4) (from Ch. 111, par. 7004)

16 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2024)

17 Sec. 4. Exemptions. Nothing in this Act shall apply to any
18 of the following:

19 (1) Veterinarians employed by the federal or State
20 government while engaged in their official duties.

21 (2) Licensed veterinarians from other states who are
22 invited to Illinois for consultation by a veterinarian
23 licensed in Illinois.

24 (3) Veterinarians employed by colleges or universities

1 while engaged in the performance of their official duties,
2 or faculty engaged in animal husbandry or animal
3 management programs of colleges or universities.

4 (3.5) A veterinarian or veterinary technician from
5 another state or country who (A) is not licensed under
6 this Act; (B) is currently licensed as a veterinarian or
7 veterinary technician in another state or country, or
8 otherwise exempt from licensure in the other state; (C) is
9 an invited guest of a professional veterinary association,
10 veterinary training program, or continuing education
11 provider approved by the Department; and (D) engages in
12 professional education through lectures, clinics, or
13 demonstrations.

14 (4) A veterinarian employed by an accredited college
15 of veterinary medicine providing assistance requested by a
16 veterinarian licensed in Illinois, acting with informed
17 consent from the client and acting under the direct or
18 indirect supervision and control of the licensed
19 veterinarian. Providing assistance involves hands-on
20 active participation in the treatment and care of the
21 patient. The licensed veterinarian shall maintain
22 responsibility for the veterinarian-client-patient
23 relationship.

24 (5) Veterinary students in an accredited college of
25 veterinary medicine, university, department of a
26 university, or other institution of veterinary medicine

1 and surgery engaged in duties assigned by their
2 instructors or working under the immediate or direct
3 supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

4 (5.5) Students of an accredited program in veterinary
5 technology performing veterinary technology duties or
6 actions assigned by instructors or working under the
7 immediate or direct supervision of a licensed
8 veterinarian.

9 (6) Any person engaged in bona fide scientific
10 research which requires the use of animals.

11 (7) An owner of livestock and any of the owner's
12 employees or the owner and employees of a service and care
13 provider of livestock caring for and treating livestock
14 belonging to the owner or under a provider's care,
15 including but not limited to, the performance of husbandry
16 and livestock management practices such as dehorning,
17 castration, emasculation, or docking of cattle, horses,
18 sheep, goats, and swine, artificial insemination, and
19 drawing of semen. Nor shall this Act be construed to
20 prohibit any person from administering in a humane manner
21 medicinal or surgical treatment to any livestock in the
22 care of such person. However, any such services shall
23 comply with the Humane Care for Animals Act.

24 (8) An owner of an animal, or an agent of the owner
25 acting with the owner's approval, in caring for, training,
26 or treating an animal belonging to the owner, so long as

1 that individual or agent does not represent himself or
2 herself as a veterinarian or use any title associated with
3 the practice of veterinary medicine or surgery or
4 diagnose, prescribe drugs, or perform surgery. The agent
5 shall provide the owner with a written statement
6 summarizing the nature of the services provided and obtain
7 a signed acknowledgment from the owner that they accept
8 the services provided. The services shall comply with the
9 Humane Care for Animals Act. The provisions of this item
10 (8) do not apply to a person who is exempt under item (7).

11 (9) A member in good standing of another licensed or
12 regulated profession within any state or a member of an
13 organization or group approved by the Department by rule
14 providing assistance that is requested in writing by a
15 veterinarian licensed in this State acting within a
16 veterinarian-client-patient relationship and with
17 informed consent from the client and the member is acting
18 under the immediate, direct, or indirect supervision and
19 control of the licensed veterinarian. Providing assistance
20 involves hands-on active participation in the treatment
21 and care of the patient, as defined by rule. The licensed
22 veterinarian shall maintain responsibility for the
23 veterinarian-client-patient relationship, but shall be
24 immune from liability, except for willful and wanton
25 conduct, in any civil or criminal action if a member
26 providing assistance does not meet the requirements of

1 this item (9).

2 (10) A graduate of a non-accredited college of
3 veterinary medicine who is in the process of obtaining a
4 certificate of educational equivalence and is performing
5 duties or actions assigned by instructors in an approved
6 college of veterinary medicine.

7 (10.5) A veterinarian who is enrolled in a
8 postgraduate instructional program in an accredited
9 college of veterinary medicine performing duties or
10 actions assigned by instructors or working under the
11 immediate or direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian
12 or a faculty member of the College of Veterinary Medicine
13 at the University of Illinois.

14 (11) A certified euthanasia technician who is
15 authorized to perform euthanasia in the course and scope
16 of his or her employment only as permitted by the Humane
17 Euthanasia in Animal Shelters Act.

18 (12) A person who, without expectation of
19 compensation, provides emergency veterinary care in an
20 emergency or disaster situation so long as he or she does
21 not represent himself or herself as a veterinarian or use
22 a title or degree pertaining to the practice of veterinary
23 medicine and surgery.

24 (13) Any certified veterinary technician or other
25 employee of a licensed veterinarian performing permitted
26 duties other than diagnosis, prognosis, prescription, or

1 surgery under the appropriate direction and supervision of
2 the veterinarian, who shall be responsible for the
3 performance of the employee.

4 (13.5) Any pharmacist licensed in the State, merchant,
5 or manufacturer selling at his or her regular place of
6 business medicines, feed, appliances, or other products
7 used in the prevention or treatment of animal diseases as
8 permitted by law and provided that the services he or she
9 provides do not include diagnosing, prognosing, writing
10 prescriptions, or surgery.

11 (14) An approved humane investigator regulated under
12 the Humane Care for Animals Act or employee of a shelter
13 licensed under the Animal Welfare Act, working under the
14 indirect supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

15 (15) An individual providing equine dentistry services
16 requested by a veterinarian licensed to practice in this
17 State, an owner, or an owner's agent. For the purposes of
18 this item (15), "equine dentistry services" means floating
19 teeth without the use of drugs or extraction.

20 (15.5) In the event of an emergency or disaster, a
21 veterinarian or veterinary technician not licensed in this
22 State who (A) is responding to a request for assistance
23 from the Illinois Department of Agriculture, the Illinois
24 Department of Public Health, the Illinois Emergency
25 Management Agency, or other State agency as determined by
26 the Department; (B) is licensed and in good standing in

1 another state; and (C) has been granted a temporary waiver
2 from licensure by the Department.

3 (16) Private treaty sale of animals unless otherwise
4 provided by law.

5 (17) EMS personnel who provide preveterinary emergency
6 care to a dog or cat under Section 3.260 of the Emergency
7 Medical Services (EMS) Systems Act.

8 (Source: P.A. 98-339, eff. 12-31-13.)

9 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
10 becoming law.