

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2023
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1453

5 By: Representatives Vaught, Wardlaw, Eubanks
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO REQUIRE EMERGENCY VETERINARY TREATMENT OF
9 ANIMALS BY VETERINARY PRACTICES AND VETERINARIANS; TO
10 CREATE THE ANIMAL EMERGENCY VETERINARY TREATMENT ACT;
11 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

14 TO REQUIRE EMERGENCY VETERINARY TREATMENT
15 OF ANIMALS BY VETERINARY PRACTICES AND
16 VETERINARIANS; AND TO CREATE THE ANIMAL
17 EMERGENCY VETERINARY TREATMENT ACT.
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 17, Chapter 101, Subchapter 1, is
24 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

25 17-101-104. Animal Emergency Veterinary Treatment Act.

26 (a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Animal
27 Emergency Veterinary Treatment Act".

28 (b) As used in this section, "emergency medical condition" means a
29 medical condition of sufficient severity that the absence of immediate
30 medical attention could reasonably be expected to result in:

31 (1) Placing the health of the animal in serious jeopardy;

32 (2) Serious impairment to bodily functions of the animal; or

33 (3) Serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part of the
34 animal.

35 (c) If an animal is brought to a veterinary practice or veterinarian
36 and a request is made on behalf of the animal for examination or treatment



1 for an emergency medical condition, the veterinary practice or veterinarian
2 shall provide an appropriate medical screening examination within the
3 capability of the veterinary practice or veterinarian to determine whether or
4 not an emergency medical condition exists.

5 (d) If the veterinary practice or veterinarian determines after an
6 appropriate medical screening examination under subsection (c) of this
7 section that the animal has an emergency medical condition, the veterinary
8 practice or veterinarian shall provide further medical examination and
9 treatment as may be required to stabilize the emergency medical condition of
10 the animal.

11 (e) A veterinary practice or veterinarian shall not delay an
12 appropriate medical screening examination under subsection (c) of this
13 section or further medical examination and treatment under subsection (d) of
14 this section in order to inquire about the ability of the animal's
15 representative to pay or the insurance status of the animal.

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