

Second Regular Session
Sixty-ninth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 14-0085.01 Kristen Forrestal x4217

SENATE BILL 14-039

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Balmer, Guzman

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

McCann and Court,

Senate Committees

Health & Human Services

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING A GRANT OF LIMITED AUTHORITY TO EMERGENCY
102 MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDERS TO VOLUNTARILY PROVIDE
103 PREVETERINARY EMERGENCY CARE TO CERTAIN DOMESTICATED
104 ANIMALS.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)

The bill allows an emergency medical service provider to provide preveterinary emergency care to dogs and cats to the extent the provider has received commensurate training and is authorized by the employer to

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

provide the care. If an employer of emergency medical service providers opts to allow its employees to provide this care, the bill requires the employer to specify in the employer's policies the circumstances under which the care may be provided.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 finds, determines, and declares that:

4 (a) As with persons throughout the nation, Colorado residents are
5 fortunate to receive comfort and unconditional love on a daily basis from
6 their household pets, particularly dogs and cats;

7 (b) In addition to the advantages of maintaining household pets,
8 Colorado residents benefit from all forms of assistance that pets perform
9 for their owners, especially the special comfort, support, and guidance
10 uniquely provided by the many therapy and companion dogs and cats
11 around the state;

12 (c) In addition to the assistance these pets provide for their owners
13 in or around households and while navigating daily life, military dogs,
14 drug-sniffing dogs, bomb-sniffing dogs, and other service animals
15 provide critical assistance to aid the performance of official duties by
16 military personnel, peace officers, law enforcement agencies, fire
17 departments, fire protection districts, or search-and-rescue agencies; and

18 (d) The personnel of some fire districts currently provide
19 stabilizing, life-saving emergency care to dogs and cats, which violates
20 the "Colorado Veterinary Practice Act", article 64 of title 12, C.R.S.

21 (2) By enacting this legislation, the general assembly intends to
22 authorize emergency medical service providers to provide, on a voluntary
23 basis, emergency medical care for dogs and cats in accordance with

1 policies and procedures designed and implemented by the employers of
2 the emergency medical service providers.

3 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-3.5-203, **add** (4.5)
4 as follows:

5 **25-3.5-203. Emergency medical service providers -**
6 **certification - renewal of certificate - duties of department - rules -**
7 **criminal history record checks - definitions.** (4.5) (a) AS USED IN THIS
8 SUBSECTION (4.5), UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

9 (I) "CAT" MEANS A SMALL, DOMESTICATED FELINE ANIMAL THAT
10 IS KEPT AS A PET. "CAT" DOES NOT INCLUDE A NONDOMESTICATED WILD
11 ANIMAL.

12 (II) "DOG" MEANS ANY CANINE ANIMAL OWNED FOR DOMESTIC,
13 COMPANIONSHIP, SERVICE, THERAPEUTIC, OR ASSISTANCE PURPOSES.

14 (III) "EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDER" MEANS AN
15 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDER THAT IS CERTIFIED OR LICENSED
16 BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT, CREATED
17 UNDER SECTION 25-1-102.

18 (IV) "EMPLOYER" MEANS AN ENTITY OR ORGANIZATION THAT
19 EMPLOYS OR ENLISTS THE SERVICES OF AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE
20 PROVIDER, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE PROVIDER IS PAID OR IS A
21 VOLUNTEER. THE EMPLOYER MAY BE A PUBLIC, PRIVATE, FOR-PROFIT, OR
22 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION OR ENTITY; OR A SPECIAL DISTRICT.

23 (V) "PREVETERINARY EMERGENCY CARE" MEANS THE IMMEDIATE
24 MEDICAL STABILIZATION OF A DOG OR CAT BY AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL
25 SERVICE PROVIDER, IN AN EMERGENCY TO WHICH THE EMERGENCY
26 MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDER IS RESPONDING, THROUGH MEANS INCLUDING
27 OXYGEN, FLUIDS, MEDICATIONS, OR BANDAGING, WITH THE INTENT OF

1 ENABLING THE DOG OR CAT TO BE TREATED BY A VETERINARIAN.

2 (b) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, AN
3 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDER MAY PROVIDE PREVETERINARY
4 EMERGENCY CARE TO DOGS AND CATS TO THE EXTENT THE PROVIDER HAS
5 RECEIVED COMMENSURATE TRAINING AND IS AUTHORIZED BY THE
6 EMPLOYER TO PROVIDE THE CARE. REQUIREMENTS GOVERNING THE
7 CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDERS
8 MAY PROVIDE PREVETERINARY EMERGENCY CARE TO DOGS AND CATS
9 MUST BE SPECIFIED IN THE EMPLOYER'S POLICIES GOVERNING THE
10 PROVISION OF CARE.

11 (c) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, NOTHING
12 IN THIS SUBSECTION (4.5) IMPOSES UPON AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL
13 SERVICE PROVIDER ANY LEGAL OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE PREVETERINARY
14 EMERGENCY CARE TO A DOG OR CAT.

15 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-64-104, **add** (3)
16 as follows:

17 **12-64-104. License requirements and exceptions - definitions**
18 **- rules.** (3) (a) AS USED IN THIS SUBSECTION (3), UNLESS THE CONTEXT
19 OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

20 (I) "CAT" MEANS A SMALL, DOMESTICATED FELINE ANIMAL THAT
21 IS KEPT AS A PET. "CAT" DOES NOT INCLUDE A NONDOMESTICATED WILD
22 ANIMAL.

23 (II) "DOG" MEANS ANY CANINE ANIMAL OWNED FOR DOMESTIC,
24 COMPANIONSHIP, SERVICE, THERAPEUTIC, OR ASSISTANCE PURPOSES.

25 (III) "EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDER" MEANS AN
26 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDER WHO IS CERTIFIED OR LICENSED
27 BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT, CREATED

1 UNDER SECTION 25-1-102, C.R.S.

2 (IV) "EMPLOYER" MEANS AN ENTITY OR ORGANIZATION THAT
3 EMPLOYS OR ENLISTS THE SERVICES OF AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE
4 PROVIDER, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE PROVIDER IS PAID OR IS A
5 VOLUNTEER. THE EMPLOYER MAY BE A PUBLIC, PRIVATE, FOR-PROFIT, OR
6 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION OR ENTITY; OR A SPECIAL DISTRICT.

7 (V) "PREVETERINARY EMERGENCY CARE" MEANS THE IMMEDIATE
8 MEDICAL STABILIZATION OF A DOG OR CAT BY AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL
9 SERVICE PROVIDER, IN AN EMERGENCY TO WHICH THE EMERGENCY
10 MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDER IS RESPONDING, THROUGH MEANS INCLUDING
11 OXYGEN, FLUIDS, MEDICATIONS, OR BANDAGING, WITH THE INTENT OF
12 ENABLING THE DOG OR CAT TO BE TREATED BY A VETERINARIAN.

13 (b) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, AN
14 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDER MAY PROVIDE PREVETERINARY
15 EMERGENCY CARE TO DOGS AND CATS TO THE EXTENT THE PROVIDER HAS
16 RECEIVED COMMENSURATE TRAINING AND IS AUTHORIZED BY THE
17 EMPLOYER TO PROVIDE THE CARE. THE PROVISION OF PREVETERINARY
18 EMERGENCY CARE TO DOGS AND CATS BY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE
19 PROVIDERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS PARAGRAPH (b) IS NOT A
20 VIOLATION OF THIS ARTICLE. REQUIREMENTS GOVERNING THE
21 CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDERS
22 MAY PROVIDE PREVETERINARY EMERGENCY CARE TO DOGS AND CATS
23 MUST BE SPECIFIED IN THE EMPLOYER'S POLICIES GOVERNING THE
24 PROVISION OF CARE.

25 (c) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, NOTHING
26 IN PARAGRAPH (b) OF THIS SUBSECTION (3) IMPOSES UPON AN EMERGENCY
27 MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDER ANY LEGAL OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE

1 PREVETERINARY EMERGENCY CARE TO A DOG OR CAT.

2 **SECTION 4. No appropriation.** The general assembly has
3 determined that this act can be implemented within existing
4 appropriations, and therefore no separate appropriation of state moneys
5 is necessary to carry out the purposes of this act.

6 **SECTION 5. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
7 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
8 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
9 6, 2014, if adjournment sine die is on May 7, 2014); except that, if a
10 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
11 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
12 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
13 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
14 November 2014 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
15 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.