

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas  
94th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2023

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1453

By: Representatives Vaught, Wardlaw, Eubanks

## For An Act To Be Entitled

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

## Subtitle

TO REQUIRE EMERGENCY VETERINARY TREATMENT OF ANIMALS BY VETERINARY PRACTICES AND VETERINARIANS; AND TO CREATE THE ANIMAL EMERGENCY VETERINARY TREATMENT ACT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 17, Chapter 101, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

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

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

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

- (1) Placing the health of the animal in serious jeopardy;
- (2) Serious impairment to bodily functions of the animal; or
- (3) Serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part of the

animal.

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



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

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

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