

# AN ACT

To amend sections 4741.20 and 4765.01 and to enact section 4765.52 of the Revised Code to authorize specified emergency personnel to provide certain emergency medical services to an injured dog or cat.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio:*

**SECTION 1.** That sections 4741.20 and 4765.01 be amended and section 4765.52 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:

**Sec. 4741.20.** This chapter does not apply to:

(A) A person who administers to animals, the title to which is vested in the person's self, except when the title is so vested for the purpose of circumventing the provisions of this chapter. No person shall vest title of an animal in the person's self for the purposes of circumventing this chapter.

(B) A person who is a regular student in a legally chartered college of veterinary medicine or a veterinary technology college while in the performance of those duties and actions assigned by the person's instructors;

(C) A person who is a member of the armed forces of the United States or an employee of the United States department of agriculture, the United States public health service, or other federal agency, or the Ohio department of agriculture except a licensed veterinarian, and who, while so commissioned or employed, performs official duties;

(D) A person who advises with respect to or performs acts which the state veterinary medical licensing board by rule has prescribed as accepted management practices in connection with livestock production;

(E) A person who conducts routine vaccinations, pullorum testing, and typhoid testing of poultry and other poultry disease control activity under supervision of a national poultry improvement plan as administered by an official state agency or the United States department of agriculture;

(F) A physician licensed to practice medicine in this state, or the assistant of such a licensed physician, while engaged in medical research;

(G) A person who is supervised by a licensed veterinarian and who is engaged in bona fide medical biomedical research which requires the application of the principles of a veterinary practice;

(H) A veterinary consultant when consulting with a licensed veterinarian, on the condition that the service performed by the veterinary consultant is limited to the consultation and under all circumstances, the responsibility for the care and treatment of the patient remains with the veterinarian who holds a current license in this state and who is providing treatment, or consultation as to treatment, to the patient;

(I) A person who offers gratuitous services in the case of an emergency;

(J) Any of the following, as defined in section 4765.01 of the Revised Code, who provides

emergency medical services to a dog or cat in accordance with section 4765.52 of the Revised Code: a first responder, emergency medical technician-basic, emergency medical technician-intermediate, or emergency medical technician-paramedic.

**Sec. 4765.01.** As used in this chapter:

(A) "First responder" means an individual who holds a current, valid certificate issued under section 4765.30 of the Revised Code to practice as a first responder.

(B) "Emergency medical technician-basic" or "EMT-basic" means an individual who holds a current, valid certificate issued under section 4765.30 of the Revised Code to practice as an emergency medical technician-basic.

(C) "Emergency medical technician-intermediate" or "EMT-I" means an individual who holds a current, valid certificate issued under section 4765.30 of the Revised Code to practice as an emergency medical technician-intermediate.

(D) "Emergency medical technician-paramedic" or "paramedic" means an individual who holds a current, valid certificate issued under section 4765.30 of the Revised Code to practice as an emergency medical technician-paramedic.

(E) "Ambulance" means any motor vehicle that is used, or is intended to be used, for the purpose of responding to emergency medical situations, transporting emergency patients, and administering emergency medical service to patients before, during, or after transportation.

(F) "Cardiac monitoring" means a procedure used for the purpose of observing and documenting the rate and rhythm of a patient's heart by attaching electrical leads from an electrocardiograph monitor to certain points on the patient's body surface.

(G) "Emergency medical service" means any of the services described in sections 4765.35, 4765.37, 4765.38, and 4765.39 of the Revised Code that are performed by first responders, emergency medical technicians-basic, emergency medical technicians-intermediate, and paramedics. "Emergency medical service" includes such services performed before or during any transport of a patient, including transports between hospitals and transports to and from helicopters.

(H) "Emergency medical service organization" means a public or private organization using first responders, EMTs-basic, EMTs-I, or paramedics, or a combination of first responders, EMTs-basic, EMTs-I, and paramedics, to provide emergency medical services.

(I) "Physician" means an individual who holds a current, valid certificate issued under Chapter 4731. of the Revised Code authorizing the practice of medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery.

(J) "Registered nurse" means an individual who holds a current, valid license issued under Chapter 4723. of the Revised Code authorizing the practice of nursing as a registered nurse.

(K) "Volunteer" means a person who provides services either for no compensation or for compensation that does not exceed the actual expenses incurred in providing the services or in training to provide the services.

(L) "Emergency medical service personnel" means first responders, emergency medical ~~service~~-technicians-basic, emergency medical ~~service~~-technicians-intermediate, emergency medical ~~service~~-technicians-paramedic, and persons who provide medical direction to such persons.

(M) "Hospital" has the same meaning as in section 3727.01 of the Revised Code.

(N) "Trauma" or "traumatic injury" means severe damage to or destruction of tissue that

satisfies both of the following conditions:

(1) It creates a significant risk of any of the following:

- (a) Loss of life;
- (b) Loss of a limb;
- (c) Significant, permanent disfigurement;
- (d) Significant, permanent disability.

(2) It is caused by any of the following:

- (a) Blunt or penetrating injury;
- (b) Exposure to electromagnetic, chemical, or radioactive energy;
- (c) Drowning, suffocation, or strangulation;
- (d) A deficit or excess of heat.

(O) "Trauma victim" or "trauma patient" means a person who has sustained a traumatic injury.

(P) "Trauma care" means the assessment, diagnosis, transportation, treatment, or rehabilitation of a trauma victim by emergency medical service personnel or by a physician, nurse, physician assistant, respiratory therapist, physical therapist, chiropractor, occupational therapist, speech-language pathologist, audiologist, or psychologist licensed to practice as such in this state or another jurisdiction.

(Q) "Trauma center" means all of the following:

(1) Any hospital that is verified by the American college of surgeons as an adult or pediatric trauma center;

(2) Any hospital that is operating as an adult or pediatric trauma center under provisional status pursuant to section 3727.101 of the Revised Code;

(3) Until December 31, 2004, any hospital in this state that is designated by the director of health as a level II pediatric trauma center under section 3727.081 of the Revised Code;

(4) Any hospital in another state that is licensed or designated under the laws of that state as capable of providing specialized trauma care appropriate to the medical needs of the trauma patient.

(R) "Pediatric" means involving a patient who is less than sixteen years of age.

(S) "Adult" means involving a patient who is not a pediatric patient.

(T) "Geriatric" means involving a patient who is at least seventy years old or exhibits significant anatomical or physiological characteristics associated with advanced aging.

(U) "Air medical organization" means an organization that provides emergency medical services, or transports emergency victims, by means of fixed or rotary wing aircraft.

(V) "Emergency care" and "emergency facility" have the same meanings as in section 3727.01 of the Revised Code.

(W) "Stabilize," except as it is used in division (B) of section 4765.35 of the Revised Code with respect to the manual stabilization of fractures, has the same meaning as in section 1753.28 of the Revised Code.

(X) "Transfer" has the same meaning as in section 1753.28 of the Revised Code.

(Y) "Firefighter" means any member of a fire department as defined in section 742.01 of the Revised Code.

(Z) "Volunteer firefighter" has the same meaning as in section 146.01 of the Revised Code.

(AA) "Part-time paid firefighter" means a person who provides firefighting services on less than a full-time basis, is routinely scheduled to be present on site at a fire station or other designated location for purposes of responding to a fire or other emergency, and receives more than nominal compensation for the provision of firefighting services.

(BB) "Physician assistant" means an individual who holds a valid license to practice as a physician assistant issued under Chapter 4730. of the Revised Code.

**Sec. 4765.52.** (A) As used in this section, "veterinarian" means an individual licensed under Chapter 4741. of the Revised Code to practice veterinary medicine.

(B) In the course of an emergency medical response, fire response, or response to aid law enforcement, a first responder, emergency medical technician-basic, emergency medical technician-intermediate, or emergency medical technician-paramedic may provide any of the following emergency medical services to a dog or cat prior to the dog or cat being transferred to a veterinarian for further treatment, but only to the extent that the first responder, EMT-basic, EMT-I, or paramedic is authorized by this chapter or rules adopted pursuant to this chapter to perform the corresponding form of each of the services when providing emergency medical services to a human patient:

(1) Opening and manually maintaining an airway;

(2) Giving mouth to snout or mouth to barrier ventilation;

(3) Administering oxygen;

(4) Managing ventilation by mask;

(5) Controlling hemorrhage with direct pressure;

(6) Immobilizing fractures;

(7) Bandaging;

(8) Administering naloxone hydrochloride, if administering the drug has been authorized by the medical director or cooperating physician advisory board of an emergency medical service organization and the drug is administered either in accordance with a written protocol established and provided by a veterinarian or pursuant to a consultation with a veterinarian.

(C) In addition to the immunity from civil liability granted under division (A) of section 4765.49 of the Revised Code, a first responder, EMT-basic, EMT-I, paramedic, or medical director or member of a cooperating physician advisory board of an emergency medical service organization is not subject to prosecution in a criminal proceeding or professional disciplinary action allegedly arising from an act or omission associated with the provision of emergency medical services to a dog or cat under this section, unless the act or omission constitutes willful or wanton misconduct.

(D)(1) An emergency medical service organization is not liable for or subject to any of the following that allegedly arises from an act or omission associated with the provision of emergency medical services to a dog or cat under this section, unless the act or omission constitutes willful or wanton misconduct: damages in a civil action for injury, death, or loss to person or property; prosecution in a criminal proceeding; or professional disciplinary action.

(2) The state board of pharmacy shall not take disciplinary action against an emergency medical service organization's license issued under Chapter 4729. of the Revised Code as a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs for reasons arising from an act or omission associated with the provision of emergency medical services to a dog or cat under this section, unless the act or omission constitutes willful or wanton misconduct.

(E)(1) Notwithstanding any conflicting provision of Chapter 4741. of the Revised Code or rule adopted by the state veterinary medical licensing board, a veterinarian may establish and provide a written protocol to, or consult with, a first responder, EMT-basic, EMT-I, or paramedic for the purpose of enabling the provision of emergency medical services to a dog or cat under this section.

(2) A veterinarian who acts in good faith in accordance with this section is not liable for or subject to any of the following for any act or omission associated with a first responder's, EMT-basic's, EMT-I's, or paramedic's provision of emergency medical services to a dog or cat under this section: damages in any civil action; prosecution in any criminal proceeding; or professional disciplinary action.

**SECTION 2.** That existing sections 4741.20 and 4765.01 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed.

---

*Speaker* \_\_\_\_\_ *of the House of Representatives.*

---

*President* \_\_\_\_\_ *of the Senate.*

Passed \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

Approved \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

---

*Governor.*

The section numbering of law of a general and permanent nature is complete and in conformity with the Revised Code.

---

*Director, Legislative Service Commission.*

Filed in the office of the Secretary of State at Columbus, Ohio, on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A. D. 20 \_\_\_\_.

---

*Secretary of State.*

File No. \_\_\_\_\_ Effective Date \_\_\_\_\_