

Second Regular Session  
Sixty-ninth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 14-0085.01 Kristen Forrestal x4217

**SENATE BILL 14-039**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Balmer, Guzman**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**McCann and Court,**

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**Senate Committees**

Health & Human Services

**House Committees**

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**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.**

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**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.

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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 persons with disabilities and to aid the  
16 performance of official duties by military personnel, peace officers, law  
17 enforcement agencies, fire departments, fire protection districts, or  
18 search-and-rescue agencies; and

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

22 (2) By enacting this legislation, the general assembly intends to  
23 authorize emergency medical service providers to provide, on a voluntary

1 basis, emergency medical care for dogs and cats in accordance with  
2 policies and procedures designed and implemented by the employers of  
3 the emergency medical service providers.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 OXYGEN, FLUIDS, MEDICATIONS, OR BANDAGING, WITH THE INTENT OF  
2 ENABLING THE DOG OR CAT TO BE TREATED BY A VETERINARIAN.  
3 "PREVETERINARY EMERGENCY CARE" DOES NOT INCLUDE CARE PROVIDED  
4 IN RESPONSE TO AN EMERGENCY CALL MADE SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
5 TENDING TO AN INJURED DOG OR CAT, UNLESS A PERSON'S LIFE COULD BE  
6 IN DANGER ATTEMPTING TO SAVE THE LIFE OF A DOG OR CAT.

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

16 (c) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, NOTHING  
17 IN THIS SUBSECTION (4.5) IMPOSES UPON AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
18 SERVICE PROVIDER ANY OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE CARE TO A DOG OR CAT,  
19 OR TO PROVIDE CARE TO A DOG OR CAT BEFORE A PERSON.

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

22 **12-64-104. License requirements and exceptions - definitions**  
23 **- rules.** (3) (a) AS USED IN THIS SUBSECTION (3), UNLESS THE CONTEXT  
24 OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

25 (I) "CAT" MEANS A SMALL, DOMESTICATED FELINE ANIMAL THAT  
26 IS KEPT AS A PET. "CAT" DOES NOT INCLUDE A NONDOMESTICATED WILD  
27 ANIMAL.

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

3 (III) "EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDER" MEANS AN  
4 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDER WHO IS CERTIFIED OR LICENSED  
5 BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT, CREATED  
6 UNDER SECTION 25-1-102, C.R.S.

7 (IV) "EMPLOYER" MEANS AN ENTITY OR ORGANIZATION THAT  
8 EMPLOYS OR ENLISTS THE SERVICES OF AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE  
9 PROVIDER, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE PROVIDER IS PAID OR IS A  
10 VOLUNTEER. THE EMPLOYER MAY BE A PUBLIC, PRIVATE, FOR-PROFIT, OR  
11 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION OR ENTITY; OR A SPECIAL DISTRICT.

12 (V) "PREVETERINARY EMERGENCY CARE" MEANS THE IMMEDIATE  
13 MEDICAL STABILIZATION OF A DOG OR CAT BY AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
14 SERVICE PROVIDER, IN AN EMERGENCY TO WHICH THE EMERGENCY  
15 MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDER IS RESPONDING, THROUGH MEANS INCLUDING  
16 OXYGEN, FLUIDS, MEDICATIONS, OR BANDAGING, WITH THE INTENT OF  
17 ENABLING THE DOG OR CAT TO BE TREATED BY A VETERINARIAN.  
18 "PREVETERINARY EMERGENCY CARE" DOES NOT INCLUDE CARE PROVIDED  
19 IN RESPONSE TO AN EMERGENCY CALL MADE SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
20 TENDING TO AN INJURED DOG OR CAT UNLESS A PERSON'S LIFE COULD BE  
21 IN DANGER ATTEMPTING TO SAVE THE LIFE OF A DOG OR CAT.

22 (b) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, AN  
23 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDER MAY PROVIDE PREVETERINARY  
24 EMERGENCY CARE TO DOGS AND CATS TO THE EXTENT THE PROVIDER HAS  
25 RECEIVED COMMENSURATE TRAINING AND IS AUTHORIZED BY THE  
26 EMPLOYER TO PROVIDE THE CARE. THE PROVISION OF PREVETERINARY  
27 EMERGENCY CARE TO DOGS AND CATS BY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

1 PROVIDERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS PARAGRAPH (b) IS NOT A  
2 VIOLATION OF THIS ARTICLE. REQUIREMENTS GOVERNING THE  
3 CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDERS  
4 MAY PROVIDE PREVETERINARY EMERGENCY CARE TO DOGS AND CATS MAY  
5 BE SPECIFIED IN THE EMPLOYER'S POLICIES GOVERNING THE PROVISION OF  
6 CARE.

7 (c) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, NOTHING  
8 IN PARAGRAPH (b) OF THIS SUBSECTION (3) IMPOSES UPON AN EMERGENCY  
9 MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDER ANY OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE CARE TO A  
10 DOG OR CAT, OR TO PROVIDE CARE TO A DOG OR CAT BEFORE A PERSON.

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

15 **SECTION 5. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
16 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
17 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
18 6, 2014, if adjournment sine die is on May 7, 2014); except that, if a  
19 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
20 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
21 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
22 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
23 November 2014 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
24 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.