A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING A GRANT OF LIMITED AUTHORITY TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDERS TO VOLUNTARILY PROVIDE PREVETERINARY EMERGENCY CARE TO CERTAIN DOMESTICATED 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
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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(2) By enacting this legislation, the general assembly intends to
authorize emergency medical service providers to provide, on a voluntary
basis, emergency medical care for dogs and cats in accordance with
policies and procedures designed and implemented by the employers of
the emergency medical service providers.

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

25-3.5-203. Emergency medical service providers -
certification - renewal of certificate - duties of department - rules -
criminal history record checks - definitions. (4.5) (a) As used in this
subsection (4.5), unless the context otherwise requires:

(I) "Cat" means a small, domesticated feline animal that
is kept as a pet. "Cat" does not include a nondomesticated wild
animal.

(II) "Dog" means any canine animal owned for domestic,
companionship, service, therapeutic, or assistance purposes.

(III) "Emergency medical service provider" means an
emergency medical service provider that is certified or licensed
by the department of public health and environment, created
under section 25-1-102.

(IV) "Employer" means an entity or organization that
employs or enlists the services of an emergency medical service
provider, regardless of whether the provider is paid or is a
volunteer. The employer may be a public, private, for-profit, or
nonprofit organization or entity; or a special district.

(V) "Preveterinary emergency care" means the immediate
medical stabilization of a dog or cat by an emergency medical
service provider, in an emergency to which the emergency
medical service provider is responding, through means including
oxygen, fluids, medications, or bandaging, with the intent of
ENABLING THE DOG OR CAT TO BE TREATED BY A VETERINARIAN.

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

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

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

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

(I) "Cat" means a small, domesticated feline animal that is kept as a pet. "Cat" does not include a nondomesticated wild animal.

(II) "Dog" means any canine animal owned for domestic, companionship, service, therapeutic, or assistance purposes.

(III) "Emergency medical service provider" means an emergency medical service provider who is certified or licensed by the department of public health and environment, created
UNDER SECTION 25-1-102, C.R.S.

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

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

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

(c) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, NOTHING IN PARAGRAPH (b) OF THIS SUBSECTION (3) IMPOSES UPON AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDER ANY LEGAL OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE...
SECTION 4. No appropriation. The general assembly has determined that this act can be implemented within existing appropriations, and therefore no separate appropriation of state moneys is necessary to carry out the purposes of this act.

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