

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

H.B. 512
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH40291-NB-92

Short Title: Emer. Care/Animals/Vet. Practice. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Gillespie.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE AN EXEMPTION TO THE PRACTICE OF VETERINARY
3 MEDICINE FOR EMERGENCY PERSONNEL WHO RENDER EMERGENCY
4 MEDICAL SERVICES TO AN INJURED K-9 POLICE ANIMAL OR AN INJURED
5 SEARCH AND RESCUE DOG AT THE SCENE OF AN EMERGENCY.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.(a)** G.S. 90-187.10 reads as rewritten:

8 "**§ 90-187.10. Necessity for license; certain practices exempted.**

9 No individual shall engage in the practice of veterinary medicine without having a veterinary
10 license from the Board. No person, as defined in G.S. 90-181(5), may own a veterinary facility
11 without having a veterinary facility permit from the Board.

12 Nothing in this Article shall be construed to prohibit:

13 ...

14 (13) Emergency medical services personnel, as defined in G.S. 131E-155, except
15 that individuals solely credentialed as emergency medical dispatchers shall
16 not be considered emergency medical services personnel for purposes of this
17 subdivision, who may provide emergency medical transport or emergency
18 medical services to an injured K-9 police unit animal or an injured certified
19 search and rescue dog deployed by or contracted to work with a federal, State,
20 or local agency or department at the scene of an emergency."

21 **SECTION 1.(b)** Article 7 of Chapter 131E of the General Statutes is amended by
22 adding a new section to read:

23 "**§ 131E-155.2. Emergency medical treatment for K-9 unit or search and rescue dog;**
24 **limited immunity.**

25 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, emergency medical services personnel shall not
26 be prosecuted for providing emergency medical transport or emergency medical services to an
27 injured K-9 police unit animal or an injured search and rescue dog if the emergency medical
28 services personnel acted in good faith when providing emergency medical transport or
29 emergency medical services to an injured K-9 police unit animal or an injured search and rescue
30 dog at the scene of an emergency. The immunity established by this section does not extend to
31 gross negligence, wanton conduct, or intentional wrongdoing that would otherwise be actionable.
32 For purposes of this section, a search and rescue dog is defined as a dog certified by any national
33 certification organization that is deployed by or contracted to work with a federal, State, or local
34 agency or department, and emergency medical dispatchers shall not be considered emergency
35 medical services personnel."



1 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective 30 days after it becomes law and applies to acts
2 on or after that date.