

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2021

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HOUSE BILL 648  
PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H648-PCS40594-BP-11

Short Title: Emer. Care/Animals/Vet. Practice.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 26, 2021

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



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1                   **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2021, and applies to acts on or  
2 after that date.