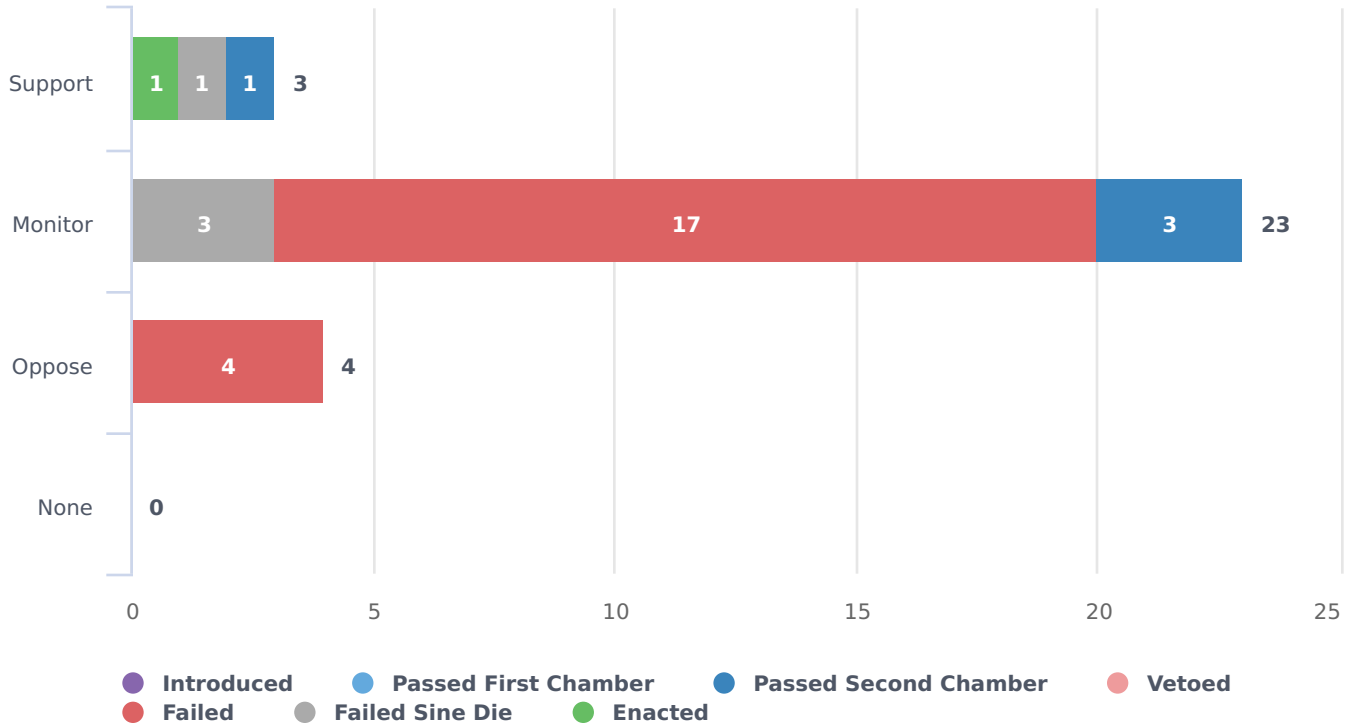


# Florida - 2024 Legislative Overview

Last Updated: June 18, 2024

## Bills by Last Status and Position



Bill State: FL (30)

State  
FL

Bill Number  
HB 261

Last Action  
**Died In Regulatory Reform Economic  
Development Subcommittee 2024 03  
08**

Status  
Failed

Position  
Monitor

**Title**

Practice of Veterinary Medicine

**Description**

Provides for licensure of veterinary technicians; provides requirements for such veterinary technicians; revises membership of Board of Veterinary Medicine; provides criminal penalties for specified actions; provides scope of practice for licensed veterinary technicians.

**Primary Sponsors**

Linda Chaney

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Oct 24, 2023, 12:42 PM

Amends Title XXXII (Regulation of Professions & Occupations), Chapter 474 (Veterinary Medical Practice) of Florida Statutes to: (1) Provide licensure and scope of practice for licensed veterinary technicians; and (2) Revise the membership of the Board of Veterinary Medicine. Amends Section 474.202 (Definitions) to add new definitions: "Licensed veterinary technician" means a veterinary technician or veterinary technologist who practices veterinary technology in the state and is licensed under the authority of this chapter. "Veterinary assistant" means a person who practices on a veterinary team providing medical care for animals. The term does not include a licensed veterinary technician. "Veterinary technician" means a person who has graduated with an associate degree from a veterinary technology training program accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities (CVTEA). "Veterinary technologist" means a person who has graduated with a bachelor's degree from a veterinary technology training program accredited by the CVTEA. Amends Section 474.204 (Board of Veterinary Medicine) to revise the membership of the Board by adding two members who are licensed veterinary technicians who have been actively engaged in the practice of veterinary technology for at least 5 years immediately preceding the date of their appointment to the board. Adds a new Section 474.2071 (Veterinary technician licensure by examination) to provide for licensure and examination requirements. Adds a new Section 474.223 (Licensed veterinary technicians) to provide for certain services a licensed veterinary technician may provide under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian. Amends Chapter XLVI (Crimes), Chapter 828 (Animals: Cruelty; Sales; Animal Enterprise Protection) of Florida Statutes to allow a licensed veterinary technician (under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian) to administer a rabies vaccine to dogs, cats, or ferrets 4 months of age or older.

**Introduction Date:** 2023-10-23

State <b>FL</b>	Bill Number <b>HB 263</b>	Last Action <b>Died In Regulatory Reform Economic Development Subcommittee 2024 03 08</b>	Status <b>Failed</b>	Position <b>Monitor</b>
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**Title**  
Pub Rec./Practice of Veterinary Medicine

**Description**  
Provides exemption from public records requirements for records relating to licensed veterinary technicians until specified criteria are met; provides statement of public necessity.

**Primary Sponsors**  
Linda Chaney

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Oct 24, 2023, 12:53 PM  
Amends Title XXXII (Regulation of Professions & Occupations), Chapter 474 (Veterinary Medical Practice), Section 474.2185 (Veterinarians consent; handwriting samples; mental or physical examinations) of Florida Statutes to provide for exemption from public records requirements for records relating to licensed veterinary technicians until specified criteria are met. Provides that that it is a public necessity that that medical reports pertaining to the mental or physical condition of a licensed veterinary technician obtained by the department as part of the complaint and investigation process be made confidential and exempt from Title X (Public Officers, Employees & Records), Chapter 119 (Public Records), Section 119.07 (Inspection and copying of records; photographing public records; fees; exemptions) of Florida Statutes, and s. 24 (Inspection and copying of records; photographing public records; fees; exemptions), Article I of the State Constitution. Provides that the rights of a licensed veterinary technician afforded under other state or federal laws that deem certain personal information confidential, such as protected health information covered by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, should be upheld and that the licensed veterinary technician's exempt or confidential information should not be disclosed to the public until probable cause is found and an administrative complaint is issued. Provides that that it is a public necessity that such information be made confidential and exempt until probable cause is found and an administrative complaint is issued.

**Introduction Date:** 2023-10-23

State <b>FL</b>	Bill Number <b>HB 273</b>	Last Action <b>Signed By Officers And Presented To Governor 2024 06 07</b>	Status <b>Passed Senate</b>	Position <b>Monitor</b>
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**Title**  
Pub. Rec./Animal Foster or Adoption

**Description**  
Provides exemption from public records requirements for records containing information pertaining to persons with legal custody of animal from animal shelter or animal control agency operated by humane society or local government; provides for future legislative review & repeal of exemption.

**Primary Sponsors**  
Jeff Holcomb, House State Affairs Committee, House Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Oct 26, 2023, 12:42 PM  
Amends Title XLVI (Crimes), Chapter 823 (Public Nuisances), Section 823.15 (Public or private animal agencies; sterilization required for dogs and cats released; recordkeeping requirements; microchipping) of Florida Statutes to provide an exemption from public records requirements for records containing certain information pertaining to persons with legal custody of an animal from an animal shelter or animal control. Provides that personal identifying information of a person who fosters, adopts, or otherwise receives legal custody of an animal from an animal shelter or animal control agency operated by a county, municipality, or other incorporated political subdivision held by the shelter or agency is exempt from Title X (Public Officers, Employees & Records), Chapter 119 (Public Records), Section 119.07 (Inspection and copying of records; photographing public records; fees; exemptions) of Florida Statutes, and Section 24 (Inspection and copying of records; photographing public records; fees; exemptions), Article I of the State Constitution.

**Introduction Date:** 2023-10-25

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position
FL	HB 297	Died In Criminal Justice Subcommittee 2024 03 08	Failed	Monitor

**Title**  
Appointment of Courtroom Animal Advocates

**Description**  
Authorizes court to order separate advocate be appointed in interests of justice for certain criminal proceedings regarding cat or dog's welfare or custody; provides judge's decision denying appointment is not subject to appeal; authorizes appointed advocate to take certain actions involving proceedings; provides requirements for advocate.

**Primary Sponsors**  
Lindsay Cross, Berny Jacques

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Oct 27, 2023, 7:09 PM  
Amends Title XLVI (Crimes), Chapter 828 (Animals: Cruelty; Sales; Animal Enterprise Protection) of Florida Statutes by creating a new Section 828.035 (Courtroom Animal Advocates) to authorize a court to order that a separate advocate be appointed in the interests of justice for certain civil and criminal proceedings regarding an animal's welfare or custody. Provides that in any civil or criminal proceeding regarding the welfare or custody of an animal, the court may order, upon its own initiative or upon the request of a party or counsel for a party, that a separate advocate be appointed to represent the interests of justice. Provides that a judge's decision denying an appointment is not subject to appeal. Authorizes an appointed advocate to take certain actions involving the proceedings and provides requirements for an individual to serve as an advocate.

**Introduction Date:** 2023-10-27

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position
FL	HB 301	Died In Regulatory Reform Economic Development Subcommittee 2024 03 08	Failed	Monitor

**Title**  
Animal Cremation

**Description**  
Requires provider of companion animal cremation services to provide written description of services & include certification with cremated remains; requires referring persons or entities to provide copies of such written descriptions; provides for collection & deposit of civil penalties; provides circumstances under which person commits unfair or deceptive act or engages in unfair method of competition; provides for private right of action; authorizes DACS to take certain actions.

**Primary Sponsors**  
Joe Casello

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Oct 31, 2023, 12:14 PM  
"Sevilla's Law" amends Title XXXIII (Regulation of Trade, Commerce, Investments & Solicitations), Chapter 501 (Consumer Protection) of Florida Statutes by adding a new Section 501.961 to require providers of companion animal cremation services to provide certain individuals and entities with a written description of the services that the provider offers. Provides that a veterinarian, pet shop, or another person who refers owners of deceased animals, or persons making arrangements on an owner's behalf, to a provider on a regular basis shall, at the time of the referral, make a copy of the provider's written description of services available to such person. Requires certain providers to include a certification with the returned animal's remains. Provides for circumstances under which a person commits an unfair or deceptive act or practice or engages in an unfair method of competition in violation of certain provisions. Requires the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to promulgate rules to administer this section. For purposes of this section: "Companion animal" or "animal" means a deceased animal that had a companion relationship or a pet relationship with its owner at the time of the animal's death. "Department" means the Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services.

**Introduction Date:** 2023-10-30

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position
FL	HB 303	Signed By Officers And Presented To Governor 2024 06 07	Passed Senate	Monitor

**Title**  
Rabies Vaccinations

**Description**  
Authorizes certain persons to administer rabies vaccinations to certain animals under indirect supervision of veterinarian; defines "indirect supervision."

**Primary Sponsors**  
Sam Killebrew, House Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Oct 31, 2023, 5:54 PM  
Amends: (1) Chapter 828 (Animals: Cruelty; Sales; Animal Enterprise Protection), Section 828.30 (Rabies Vaccination of Dog, Cats, and Ferrets) of Florida Statutes to authorize certain persons to administer rabies vaccinations to certain animals under indirect supervision of veterinarian; and (2) Title XXXII (Regulation of Professions & Occupations), Chapter 474 (Veterinary Medical Practice) of Florida Statutes to define "indirect supervision". Provides that, acting under the indirect supervision of a veterinarian, an employee, an agent, or a contractor of a county or municipal animal control authority or sheriff may vaccinate against rabies dogs, cats, and ferrets in the custody of an animal control authority or a sheriff that will be transferred, rescued, fostered, adopted, or reclaimed by the owner. Provides that the supervising veterinarian assumes responsibility for any person vaccinating animals at his or her direction or under his or her direct or indirect supervision. For purposes of this section: "Indirect supervision" means that the supervising veterinarian is required to be available for consultation through telecommunications but is not required to be physically present during such consultation.

**Introduction Date:** 2023-10-31

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position
FL	HB 321	Signed By Officers And Presented To Governor 2024 06 17	Passed Senate	Support

**Title**  
Release of Balloons

**Description**  
Revises prohibition on release of certain balloons to delete specified timeframe & number of balloons; deletes exemption from such prohibition for certain biodegradable or photodegradable balloons; provides that person who violates prohibition commits noncriminal infraction of littering; revises penalty for such violation; deletes provision authorizing petitions to enjoin release of balloons.

**Primary Sponsors**  
Linda Chaney, Jim Mooney, House Agriculture, Conservation & Resiliency Subcommittee

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Feb 2, 2024, 6:51 PM  
Amends XXVIII (Natural Resources, Conservation, Reclamation & Use), Chapter 379 (Fish & Wildlife Conservation), Part 1 (General Provisions), Section 379.233 (Release of Balloons) to: (1) Revise the prohibition on release of certain balloons; (2) Delete exemption from such prohibition for certain biodegradable or photodegradable balloons; and (3) Revise definitions for "dump" and "litter". Strikes current exemption for balloons that are either biodegradable or photodegradable from the provision that it is unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to intentionally release, organize the release of, or intentionally cause to be released balloons inflated with a gas that is lighter than air. Amends the definition of "litter" to include balloons. Amends the definition of "dump" to mean to dump, throw, discard, place, deposit, drain, discharge, or dispose of, OR INTENTIONALLY RELEASE.

**Introduction Date:** 2023-11-02

**Title**

Pet Rabbits

**Description**

Prohibits sale of rabbits in specified locations & during specified months; specifies unlawful acts relating to sales of rabbits; provides requirements for rabbits offered for sale at retail pet stores; requires retail pet stores to maintain & make available specified records; provides for retrieval, return, & placement of abandoned rabbits; authorizes compliance inspections; provides exceptions.

**Primary Sponsors**

Katherine Waldron

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Dec 4, 2023, 6:48 PM

Amends Title XLVI (Crimes), Chapter 828 (Animals: Cruelty; Sales; Animal Enterprise Protection) of Florida Statutes by creating a new Section 828.1618 (Rabbits) to restrict the sale of rabbits in retail pet stores. Provides that the sale of rabbits is prohibited in retail pet stores during the months of March and April. Provides that during the months of March and April, retail stores shall keep rabbits in a separate area, off the sales floor and out of view of the public, and label each cage, kennel, or enclosure with signage indicating that the rabbits are not for sale until May 1. Provides that it is unlawful to sell, offer for sale, or give away as a merchandising premium any rabbit under 2 months of age to be used as a pet, toy, or retail premium. Provides that each rabbit offered for sale at a retail pet store must: (1) Be kept one per cage, kennel, or enclosure to avoid unwanted pregnancies. The cage, kennel, or enclosure must be kept clean and dry and may not have wire floors; (2) Have proper food, water, and hay for digestion at all times; (3) Have signage posted on the cage, kennel, or enclosure which includes the date of birth; name, city, and state of the breeder; and microchip number of the rabbit. Provides for mandatory microchipping, certificate of source, veterinary inspection, recordkeeping, signage, and disposition of abandoned rabbits requirements. Provides that a city, county, or any investigating official may enter the premises of any retail pet store during regular business hours to conduct reasonable inspections to ensure and verify compliance with this section. A person may not refuse or interfere with a lawful inspection of a retail pet store by investigating officials. Exempt from the provisions of this section are rabbits raised for: (1) Agricultural purposes by persons with proper facilities to care for them; (2) Livestock exhibitions; and (3) Future Farmers of America or 4-H activities.

**Introduction Date:** 2023-12-04

**Title**

Veterinary Practices

**Description**

Authorizing licensed veterinarians to practice veterinary telehealth in accordance with specified criteria; specifying the powers of the Board of Veterinary Medicine related to the practice of telehealth; providing that the practice of veterinary medicine is deemed to occur under specified circumstances; specifying the drugs that a veterinarian practicing telehealth may not provide unless specified conditions are met; providing specific authorizations for cases in which the patient is a food-producing species, etc.

**Primary Sponsors**

Sam Killebrew, James Buchanan

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Dec 13, 2023, 1:15 PM

Amends Title XXXII (Regulation of Professions & Occupations), Chapter 474 (Veterinary Medical Practice) of Florida Statutes to: (1) Authorize licensed veterinarians to practice veterinary telehealth in accordance with specified criteria; (2) Specify powers of Board of Veterinary Medicine related to practice of telehealth; and (3) Specify drugs a veterinarian practicing telehealth may provide. Amends Title XLVI (Crimes), Chapter 828 (Animal Cruelty; Sales; Animal Enterprise Protection), Section 828.30 (Rabies vaccination of dogs, cats, and ferrets) of Florida Statutes to authorize specified people to vaccinate dogs, cats, & ferrets against rabies. Adds a new Section 474.2021 ("Providing Equity in Telehealth Services Act") to provide that a veterinarian who holds a current license to practice veterinary medicine in Florida may practice veterinary telehealth. Provides that the Board of Veterinary Medicine has jurisdiction over a veterinarian practicing veterinary telehealth, regardless of where the veterinarian's physical office is located. The practice of veterinary medicine is deemed to occur at the premises where the patient is located at the time the veterinarian practices veterinary telehealth. Provides that a veterinarian must prescribe all drugs and medications in accordance with all federal and state laws. Provides that a veterinarian may not use telehealth to prescribe a controlled substance listed in Schedule II of s. 893.03. Provides that, acting under the indirect supervision of a veterinarian, an employee, an agent, or a contractor of a county or municipal animal control authority or sheriff may vaccinate against rabies dogs, cats, and ferrets in the custody of an animal control authority or a sheriff that will be transferred, rescued, fostered, adopted, or reclaimed by the owner. Provides that the supervising veterinarian assumes responsibility for any person vaccinating animals at his or her direction or under his or her direct or indirect supervision.

**Introduction Date:** 2023-12-12

**Title**

Dangerous Dogs

**Description**

Requires dog owners to securely confine their dogs in proper enclosure; requires dogs subject to dangerous dog investigations be confiscated & held until completion of certain actions; requires animal control to provide information to DACS & destroy certain dogs; requires owner of dangerous dog to obtain liability insurance; revises civil penalty for violations; requires DACS to create statewide Dangerous Dog Registry; revises when owner of dog that has not been declared dangerous is liable for such dog's severe injury to, or death of, human.

**Primary Sponsors**

Bobby Payne, House Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Dec 14, 2023, 3:28 PM

Amends Title XLV (Torts), Chapter 767 (Damage by Dogs; Dangerous Dogs) of Florida Statutes to further provide for dangerous dog investigations/registration and dog owner restrictions. Requires dog owners to securely confine their dogs in proper enclosure. Requires dogs subject to dangerous dog investigations be confiscated & held until completion of certain actions. Requires animal control to provide information to the FL Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services and to destroy certain dogs. Requires owner of dangerous dog to obtain liability insurance and revises civil penalty for violations. Requires that the FL Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services create and maintain a statewide Dangerous Dog Registry that provides the public with a searchable online database of dogs throughout this state which have been declared dangerous by local authorities. Revises when owner of dog that has not been declared dangerous is liable for such dog's severe injury to, or death of, human. Provides that police canines are exempt from certain provisions while on duty. For purposes of this section: "Dangerous dog" means any dog that according to the records of the appropriate authority: (1) Has aggressively bitten, attacked, or endangered or has inflicted severe injury on a human being on public or private property; (2) Has more than once severely injured or killed a domestic animal while off the owner's property; or (3) Has, when unprovoked, chased or approached a person upon the streets, sidewalks, or any public grounds in a menacing fashion or apparent attitude of attack, provided that such actions are attested to in a sworn statement by one or more persons and dutifully investigated by the appropriate authority.

**Introduction Date:** 2023-12-13



State  
**FL**

Bill Number  
**HB 1033**

Last Action  
**Died In Regulatory Reform Economic  
Development Subcommittee 2024 03  
08**

Status  
**Failed**

Position  
**Oppose**

**Title**  
Animals

**Description**

Revises provisions concerning specified activities involving iguanas; prohibits pet stores from selling or offering for sale domestic dogs & cats.

**Primary Sponsors**

Sam Killebrew

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Dec 28, 2023, 1:30 PM

Amends: (1) Title XLVI (Crimes), Chapter 828 (Animals: Cruelty; Sales; Animal Enterprise Protection) of Florida Statutes by creating a new Section 828.32 (Retail Sale of Domestic Dogs and Cats) to prohibit pet stores from selling or offering for sale domestic dogs & cats; and (2) Title XXVIII (Natural Resources; Conservation; Reclamation & Use), Chapter 379 (Fish & Wildlife Conservation), Section 379.372 (Capturing, keeping, possessing, transporting, or exhibiting venomous reptiles, reptiles of concern, conditional reptiles, or prohibited reptiles; license required) of Florida Statutes to revise provisions concerning specified activities involving iguanas. New Section 828.32: Provides that a pet store may not sell or offer for sale a domestic dog or cat. Provides that the sale or offer for sale of a domestic dog or cat in violation of this section is a noncriminal violation, punishable by a fine of \$500 (each sale or offer for sale is a separate offense). Does not prohibit the enactment or enforcement of a municipal or county ordinance restricting the sale or offer for sale of animals that is more stringent than this section. For purposes of this section: "Pet store" means a for-profit business that sells or offers for sale animals to the public at retail. The term does not include a person who sells or offers for sale directly to the public only animals that the person bred and raised. "Sell or offer for sale" means to advertise or display for sale, barter, or trade. Section 379.372 amendment: Provides that a person, party, firm, association, or corporation may not keep, possess, import into the state, sell, barter, trade, or breed Iguanas except for educational, research, or eradication or control purposes. Current statute = Green Iguanas (Iguana iguana).

**Introduction Date:** 2023-12-27

State  
FL

Bill Number  
HB 1201

Last Action  
Died In Regulatory Reform Economic  
Development Subcommittee 2024 03  
08

Status  
Failed

Position  
Monitor

**Title**

Research Animals

**Description**

Requires research facilities to offer certain dogs & cats for adoption to societies or associations before euthanizing such dogs & cats; authorizes facilities to enter into collaborative agreements; provides immunity from liability for research facilities acting in good faith; requires certain publicly funded institutions report concerning animal testing activities; provides requirements for report.

**Primary Sponsors**

Joel Rudman

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 4, 2024, 4:06 PM

Amends Title XLVI (Crimes), Chapter 828 (Animals: Cruelty; Sales; Animal Enterprise Protection) of Florida Statutes by creating Section 828.067 (Adoption of research dogs and cats) to: (1) Require research facilities to offer certain dogs and cats for adoption to societies or associations for the prevention of cruelty to animals rather than euthanizing such dogs and cats; (2) Authorize research facilities to enter into collaborative agreements with such societies and associations; (3) Provide immunity from liability for research facilities acting in good faith; and (4) Require certain research facilities to make an annual reporting to the Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services. Provides that before euthanizing a dog or cat that is no longer needed for laboratory research purposes, a research facility located in this state shall offer the dog or cat for adoption to any society or association for the prevention of cruelty to animals, unless euthanizing the dog or cat is required for health or safety reasons. Provides that a research facility may enter into a collaborative agreement with a society or association for the prevention of cruelty to animals for the purpose of carrying out this subsection. Provides that a research facility that offers a dog or cat to a society or association for the prevention of cruelty to animals is immune from civil liability for or resulting from the transfer of the dog or cat if the research facility acted in good faith concerning the health and physical condition of the dog or cat. Provides that beginning January 31, 2025, and each January 31 thereafter, a research facility that uses dogs or cats for laboratory research shall submit to the Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services a report that includes the following information for the preceding year: (1) The total number of dogs and cats owned by the facility. (2) The total number of dogs and cats used for research conducted at the facility. (3) The total number of dogs and cats released by the facility to a society or association for the prevention of cruelty to animals for the purpose of adoption. (4) The name and address of each society or association for the prevention of cruelty to animals to which a dog or cat was released by the facility.

**Introduction Date:** 2024-01-04

**Title**  
Veterinary Professional Associates

**Description**  
Authorizes certain individuals to use title "veterinary professional associate"; authorizes such associates to perform certain duties & actions; prohibits such associates from prescribing certain drugs or controlled substances or performing surgical procedures; provides exceptions; provides that veterinarians are liable for acts or omissions of veterinary professional associates under their supervision & control.

**Primary Sponsors**  
Sam Killebrew, House Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 5, 2024, 2:39 PM  
The "Veterinary Workforce Innovation Act" amends Title XXXII (Regulation of Occupations & Professions), Chapter 474 (Veterinary Practice Act) of Florida Statutes by adding a new Section 474.2126 (Veterinary professional associate) to define and authorize certain individuals to use the title "veterinary professional associate". Provides that the practice in this state of veterinary professional associates, with their education, training, and experience in the field of veterinary medicine, will provide increased efficiency of and access to high-quality veterinary medical services at a reasonable cost to consumers. Provides that, unless otherwise prohibited by federal or state law, a veterinary professional associate may perform duties or actions in which he or she is competent and has the necessary training, current knowledge, and experience to perform, as assigned by a veterinarian licensed in this state while working under the supervision of that veterinarian. Provides that a veterinary professional associate may not: (1) Prescribe certain medicinal drugs or controlled substances; or (2) Perform a surgical procedure (except for veterinary sterilizations or veterinary dental surgeries). Provides that the title "veterinary professional associate" may be used only by an individual who has successfully completed an approved program. Provides that each supervising veterinarian using a veterinary professional associate is liable for any acts or omissions of the veterinary professional associate acting under the veterinarian's supervision and control. For purposes of this section: "Approved program" means a master's program in veterinary clinical care, or the equivalent, in the United States or in its territories or possessions from an accredited school of veterinary medicine. "Veterinary professional associate" means a person has earned a master's degree from an approved program or who meets standards approved by the board and is authorized to perform veterinary medical services delegated by a supervising veterinarian.

**Introduction Date:** 2024-01-04

**Title**  
Pet Insurance and Wellness Programs

**Description**  
Revises definition of term "property insurance" to include pet insurance; requires pet insurers to make certain disclosures to pet insurance applicants & policyholders; authorizes pet insurers to issue policies that exclude coverage on basis of preexisting conditions; provides pet insurer has specified burden of proof with regard to exclusions; requires pet insurers who issue policy that imposes waiting period to include provision allowing for waiver of waiting period upon completion of medical examination of covered pet by veterinarian.

**Primary Sponsors**  
Kaylee Tuck, House Commerce Committee, House Insurance & Banking Subcommittee

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 8, 2024, 3:04 PM  
Amends Title XXXVII (Insurance) of Florida Statutes by creating a new Chapter 644 (Pet Insurance) to provide a comprehensive legal framework within which pet insurance may be sold in Florida. Provides that the requirements of this chapter shall apply to pet insurance policies that are issued to any resident of this state, and are sold, solicited, negotiated, or offered in this state, and policies or certificates that are delivered or issued for delivery in this state. Provides that all other applicable provisions of this state's insurance laws shall continue to apply to pet insurance, except that the specific provisions of this chapter shall supersede any general provisions of law that would otherwise be applicable to pet insurance. Provides for certain disclosures a pet insurer transacting pet insurance shall disclose to consumers (policy coverage exclusions, limitations, premiums) Provides that no pet insurer and/or producer shall market a wellness program as pet insurance. Provides that the Commissioner may adopt rules relative to the implementation of this chapter. For purposes of this section: "Pet insurance" means a property insurance policy that provides coverage for accidents and illnesses of pets.

**Introduction Date:** 2024-01-07

State <b>FL</b>	Bill Number <b>HB 7073</b>	Last Action <b>Chapter No 2024 158 2024 05 08</b>	Status <b>Enacted</b>	Position <b>Support</b>
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**Title**  
Taxation

**Description**

Providing that a taxpayer has a right to know certain information regarding property determined not to have been entitled to a homestead exemption; requiring that the owner be given a specified timeframe to pay certain taxes, penalties, and interest prior to a lien being filed; providing that such lien is subject to certain provisions; prohibiting the taxpayer from being assessed certain penalties or interest under certain circumstances; providing that back taxes apply only under certain circumstances, etc.

**Primary Sponsors**

Stan McClain, House Appropriations Committee, House Ways & Means Committee

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Feb 16, 2024, 3:18 PM

Amends Title XIV (Taxation & Finance), Chapter 212 (Tax on Sale, Use, and Other Transactions) of Florida Statutes by adding a new section (Disaster preparedness supplies; sales tax holiday) to exempt from sales and use tax specified disaster preparedness supplies (to include certain pet supplies) during specified timeframes. Provides that the tax levied under Chapter 212, Florida Statutes, may not be collected during the period from June 1, 2024, through June 14, 2024, or during the period from August 24, 2024, through September 6, 2024, on the sale of the following supplies necessary for the evacuation of household pets purchased for noncommercial use: (1) Bags of dry dog food or cat food weighing 50 or fewer pounds with a sales price of \$100 or less per bag; (2) Cans or pouches of wet dog food or cat food with a sales price of \$10 or less per can or pouch or the equivalent if sold in a box or case; (3) Over-the-counter pet medications with a sales price of \$100 or less per item; (4) Portable kennels or pet carriers with a sales price of \$100 or less per item; (5) Leashes, collars, and muzzles with a sales price of \$20 or less per item; (6) Collapsible or travel-sized food bowls or water bowls with a sales price of \$15 or less per item; (7) Cat litter weighing 25 or fewer pounds with a sales price of \$25 or less per item; (8) Cat litter pans with a sales price of \$15 or less per item; (9) Pet waste disposal bags with a sales price of \$15 or less per package; (10) Pet pads with a sales price of \$20 or less per box or package; (11) Hamster or rabbit substrate with a sales price of \$15 or less per package; and (12) Pet beds with a sales price of \$40 or less per item.

**Introduction Date:** 2024-02-15

State <b>FL</b>	Bill Number <b>SB 22</b>	Last Action <b>Died In Agriculture 2024 03 08</b>	Status <b>Failed</b>	Position <b>Monitor</b>
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**Title**  
Animal Cremation

**Description**

Creating "Sevilla's Law"; requiring a provider of companion animal cremation services to provide certain individuals and entities with a written description of the services the provider offers; requiring the written description to include a detailed explanation of each service offered; requiring certain providers to include a certification with the returned animal's cremation remains; providing circumstances under which a person commits an unfair or deceptive act or practice or an unfair method of competition in violation of certain provisions, etc.

**Primary Sponsors**

Gayle Harrell

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Oct 10, 2023, 6:56 PM

"Sevilla's Law" amends Title XXXIII (Regulation of Trade, Commerce, Investments & Solicitations), Chapter 501 (Consumer Protection) of Florida Statutes by adding a new Section 501.961 to require providers of companion animal cremation services to provide certain individuals and entities with a written description of the services that the provider offers. Provides that a veterinarian, pet shop, or another person who refers owners of deceased animals, or persons making arrangements on an owner's behalf, to a provider on a regular basis shall, at the time of the referral, make a copy of the provider's written description of services available to such person. Requires certain providers to include a certification with the returned animal's remains. Provides for circumstances under which a person commits an unfair or deceptive act or practice or engages in an unfair method of competition in violation of certain provisions. Requires the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to promulgate rules to administer this section. For purposes of this section: "Companion animal" or "animal" means a deceased animal that had a companion relationship or a pet relationship with its owner at the time of the animal's death. "Department" means the Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services.

**Introduction Date:** 2023-08-22

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position
FL	SB 272	Died In Criminal Justice 2024 03 08	Failed	Monitor

**Title**  
Appointment of Courtroom Animal Advocates

**Description**  
Authorizing a court to order that a separate advocate be appointed in the interests of justice for certain criminal proceedings regarding a cat or dog's welfare or custody; providing that a judge's decision denying an appointment of such an advocate is not subject to appeal; providing requirements for an individual to serve as an advocate, etc.

**Primary Sponsors**  
Jennifer Bradley

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Oct 30, 2023, 6:25 PM  
Amends Title XLVI (Crimes), Chapter 828 (Animals: Cruelty; Sales; Animal Enterprise Protection) of Florida Statutes by creating a new Section 828.035 (Courtroom Animal Advocates) to authorize a court to order that a separate advocate be appointed in the interests of justice for certain civil and criminal proceedings regarding an animal's welfare or custody. Provides that in any civil or criminal proceeding regarding the welfare or custody of an animal, the court may order, upon its own initiative or upon the request of a party or counsel for a party, that a separate advocate be appointed to represent the interests of justice. Provides that a judge's decision denying an appointment is not subject to appeal. Authorizes an appointed advocate to take certain actions involving the proceedings and provides requirements for an individual to serve as an advocate.

**Introduction Date:** 2023-10-30

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position
FL	SB 334	Laid On Table Refer To Cs Hb 303 Sj 387 2024 02 14	Failed sine die	Monitor

**Title**  
Rabies Vaccinations

**Description**  
Authorizing certain persons to administer rabies vaccinations to certain animals under the indirect supervision of a veterinarian; providing that a supervising veterinarian assumes responsibility for any person working under the veterinarian's supervision or at his or her direction; defining the term "indirect supervision", etc.

**Primary Sponsors**  
Danny Burgess

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Nov 7, 2023, 12:54 PM  
Amends: (1) Chapter 828 (Animals: Cruelty; Sales; Animal Enterprise Protection), Section 828.30 (Rabies Vaccination of Dog, Cats, and Ferrets) of Florida Statutes to authorize certain persons to administer rabies vaccinations to certain animals under indirect supervision of veterinarian; and (2) Title XXXII (Regulation of Professions & Occupations), Chapter 474 (Veterinary Medical Practice) of Florida Statutes to define "indirect supervision". Provides that, acting under the indirect supervision of a veterinarian, an employee, an agent, or a contractor of a county or municipal animal control authority or sheriff may vaccinate against rabies dogs, cats, and ferrets in the custody of an animal control authority or a sheriff that will be transferred, rescued, fostered, adopted, or reclaimed by the owner. Provides that the supervising veterinarian assumes responsibility for any person vaccinating animals at his or her direction or under his or her direct or indirect supervision. For purposes of this section: "Indirect supervision" means that the supervising veterinarian is required to be available for consultation through telecommunications but is not required to be physically present during such consultation.

**Introduction Date:** 2023-11-06

State <b>FL</b>	Bill Number <b>SB 368</b>	Last Action <b>Died In Agriculture 2024 03 08</b>	Status <b>Failed</b>	Position <b>Monitor</b>
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**Title**  
Research Animals

**Description**  
Requiring research facilities to offer certain dogs and cats for adoption to societies or associations for the prevention of cruelty to animals rather than euthanizing such dogs and cats; providing an exception; authorizing research facilities to enter into collaborative agreements with such societies and associations; providing immunity from liability for research facilities acting in good faith; requiring certain publicly funded institutions to make an annual report concerning animal testing activities, etc.

**Primary Sponsors**  
Jennifer Bradley

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Nov 8, 2023, 3:56 PM  
Amends Title XLVI (Crimes), Chapter 828 (Animals: Cruelty; Sales; Animal Enterprise Protection) of Florida Statutes by creating Section 828.067 (Adoption of research dogs and cats) to: (1) Require research facilities to offer certain dogs and cats for adoption to societies or associations for the prevention of cruelty to animals rather than euthanizing such dogs and cats; (2) Authorize research facilities to enter into collaborative agreements with such societies and associations; (3) Provide immunity from liability for research facilities acting in good faith; and (4) Require certain research facilities to make an annual reporting to the Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services. Provides that before euthanizing a dog or cat that is no longer needed for laboratory research purposes, a research facility located in this state shall offer the dog or cat for adoption to any society or association for the prevention of cruelty to animals, unless euthanizing the dog or cat is required for health or safety reasons. Provides that a research facility may enter into a collaborative agreement with a society or association for the prevention of cruelty to animals for the purpose of carrying out this subsection. Provides that a research facility that offers a dog or cat to a society or association for the prevention of cruelty to animals is immune from civil liability for or resulting from the transfer of the dog or cat if the research facility acted in good faith concerning the health and physical condition of the dog or cat. Provides that beginning January 31, 2025, and each January 31 thereafter, a research facility that uses dogs or cats for laboratory research shall submit to the Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services a report that includes the following information for the preceding year: (1) The total number of dogs and cats owned by the facility. (2) The total number of dogs and cats used for research conducted at the facility. (3) The total number of dogs and cats released by the facility to a society or association for the prevention of cruelty to animals for the purpose of adoption. (4) The name and address of each society or association for the prevention of cruelty to animals to which a dog or cat was released by the facility.

**Introduction Date:** 2023-11-08

State <b>FL</b>	Bill Number <b>SB 660</b>	Last Action <b>Laid On Table Refer To Cs Cs Hb 273 Sj 435 2024 02 21</b>	Status <b>Failed sine die</b>	Position <b>Monitor</b>
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**Title**  
Public Records/Animal Shelter or Animal Control Agency

**Description**  
Providing an exemption from public records requirements for records held by an animal shelter or animal control agency operated by a local government which contain certain information pertaining to persons with legal custody of an animal; providing for future legislative review and repeal of the exemption; providing a statement of public necessity, etc.

**Primary Sponsors**  
Nick DiCeglie

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Dec 4, 2023, 2:24 PM  
Amends Title XLVI (Crimes), Chapter 823 (Public Nuisances), Section 823.15 (Public or private animal agencies; sterilization required for dogs and cats released; recordkeeping requirements; microchipping) of Florida Statutes to provide an exemption from public records requirements for records containing certain information pertaining to persons with legal custody of an animal from an animal shelter or animal control. Provides that personal identifying information of a person who fosters, adopts, or otherwise receives legal custody of an animal from an animal shelter or animal control agency operated by a county, municipality, or other incorporated political subdivision held by the shelter or agency is exempt from Title X (Public Officers, Employees & Records), Chapter 119 (Public Records), Section 119.07 (Inspection and copying of records; photographing public records; fees; exemptions) of Florida Statutes, and Section 24 (Inspection and copying of records; photographing public records; fees; exemptions), Article I of the State Constitution.

**Introduction Date:** 2023-12-01

**Title**

Veterinary Professional Associates

**Description**

Citing this act as the "Veterinary Workforce Innovation Act"; authorizing certain individuals to use the title "veterinary professional associate"; authorizing such associates to perform certain duties and actions; providing that supervising veterinarians are liable for the acts or omissions of veterinary professional associates under their supervision and control, etc.

**Primary Sponsors**

Jennifer Bradley

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Dec 26, 2023, 9:53 PM

The "Veterinary Workforce Innovation Act" amends Title XXXII (Regulation of Occupations & Professions), Chapter 474 (Veterinary Practice Act) of Florida Statutes by adding a new Section 474.2126 (Veterinary professional associate) to define and authorize certain individuals to use the title "veterinary professional associate". Provides that the practice in this state of veterinary professional associates, with their education, training, and experience in the field of veterinary medicine, will provide increased efficiency of and access to high-quality veterinary medical services at a reasonable cost to consumers. Provides that, unless otherwise prohibited by federal or state law, a veterinary professional associate may perform duties or actions in which he or she is competent and has the necessary training, current knowledge, and experience to perform, as assigned by a veterinarian licensed in this state while working under the supervision of that veterinarian. Provides that a veterinary professional associate may not: (1) Prescribe certain medicinal drugs or controlled substances; or (2) Perform a surgical procedure (except for veterinary sterilizations or veterinary dental surgeries). Provides that the title "veterinary professional associate" may be used only by an individual who has successfully completed an approved program. Provides that each supervising veterinarian using a veterinary professional associate is liable for any acts or omissions of the veterinary professional associate acting under the veterinarian's supervision and control. For purposes of this section: "Approved program" means a master's program in veterinary clinical care, or the equivalent, in the United States or in its territories or possessions from an accredited school of veterinary medicine. "Veterinary professional associate" means a person has earned a master's degree from an approved program or who meets standards approved by the board and is authorized to perform veterinary medical services delegated by a supervising veterinarian.

**Introduction Date:** 2023-12-20

**Title**

Veterinary Practices

**Description**

Designating the "Providing Equity in Telehealth Services Act"; authorizing licensed veterinarians to practice veterinary telehealth in accordance with specified criteria; specifying the powers of the Board of Veterinary Medicine related to the practice of telehealth; specifying the drugs that a veterinarian practicing telehealth may not provide unless specified conditions are met, etc.

**Primary Sponsors**

Jennifer Bradley, Senate Rules Committee, Senate Fiscal Policy Committee, Senate Regulated Industries Committee

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Dec 26, 2023, 9:58 PM

Amends Title XXXII (Regulation of Professions & Occupations), Chapter 474 (Veterinary Medical Practice) of Florida Statutes to: (1) Authorize licensed veterinarians to practice veterinary telehealth in accordance with specified criteria; (2) Specify powers of Board of Veterinary Medicine related to practice of telehealth; and (3) Specify drugs a veterinarian practicing telehealth may provide. Amends Title XLVI (Crimes), Chapter 828 (Animal Cruelty; Sales; Animal Enterprise Protection), Section 828.30 (Rabies vaccination of dogs, cats, and ferrets) of Florida Statutes to authorize specified people to vaccinate dogs, cats, & ferrets against rabies. Adds a new Section 474.2021 ("Providing Equity in Telehealth Services Act") to provide that a veterinarian who holds a current license to practice veterinary medicine in Florida may practice veterinary telehealth. Provides that the Board of Veterinary Medicine has jurisdiction over a veterinarian practicing veterinary telehealth, regardless of where the veterinarian's physical office is located. The practice of veterinary medicine is deemed to occur at the premises where the patient is located at the time the veterinarian practices veterinary telehealth. Provides that a veterinarian must prescribe all drugs and medications in accordance with all federal and state laws. Provides that a veterinarian may not use telehealth to prescribe a controlled substance listed in Schedule II of s. 893.03. Provides that, acting under the indirect supervision of a veterinarian, an employee, an agent, or a contractor of a county or municipal animal control authority or sheriff may vaccinate against rabies dogs, cats, and ferrets in the custody of an animal control authority or a sheriff that will be transferred, rescued, fostered, adopted, or reclaimed by the owner. Provides that the supervising veterinarian assumes responsibility for any person vaccinating animals at his or her direction or under his or her direct or indirect supervision.

**Introduction Date:** 2023-12-20



**Title**

Practice of Veterinary Medicine

**Description**

Providing that specified exemptions apply to licensed and unlicensed veterinary technicians; providing requirements for the licensure of veterinary technicians; providing continuing education requirements for the renewal of licensed veterinary technicians' licenses; providing grounds for disciplinary actions against applicants for licensure and licensed veterinary technicians, etc.

**Primary Sponsors**

Nick DiCeglie

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 2, 2024, 4:13 PM

Amends Title XXXII (Regulation of Professions & Occupations), Chapter 474 (Veterinary Medical Practice) of Florida Statutes to: (1) Provide licensure and scope of practice for licensed veterinary technicians; and (2) Revise the membership of the Board of Veterinary Medicine. Amends Section 474.202 (Definitions) to add new definitions: "Licensed veterinary technician" means a veterinary technician or veterinary technologist who practices veterinary technology in the state and is licensed under the authority of this chapter. "Veterinary assistant" means a person who practices on a veterinary team providing medical care for animals. The term does not include a licensed veterinary technician. "Veterinary technician" means a person who has graduated with an associate degree from a veterinary technology training program accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities (CVTEA). "Veterinary technologist" means a person who has graduated with a bachelor's degree from a veterinary technology training program accredited by the CVTEA. Amends Section 474.204 (Board of Veterinary Medicine) to revise the membership of the Board by adding two members who are licensed veterinary technicians who have been actively engaged in the practice of veterinary technology for at least 5 years immediately preceding the date of their appointment to the board. Adds a new Section 474.2071 (Veterinary technician licensure by examination) to provide for licensure and examination requirements. Adds a new Section 474.223 (Licensed veterinary technicians) to provide for certain services a licensed veterinary technician may provide under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian. Amends Chapter XLVI (Crimes), Chapter 828 (Animals: Cruelty; Sales; Animal Enterprise Protection) of Florida Statutes to allow a licensed veterinary technician (under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian) to administer a rabies vaccine to dogs, cats, or ferrets 4 months of age or older.

**Introduction Date:** 2023-12-27

State  
**FL**

Bill Number  
**SB 1102**

Last Action  
**Died In Regulated Industries 2024 03  
08**

Status  
**Failed**

Position  
**Monitor**

**Title**

Public Records/Licensed Veterinary Technicians

**Description**

Providing an exemption from public records requirements for records relating to licensed veterinary technicians until specified criteria are met; providing a statement of public necessity, etc.

**Primary Sponsors**

Nick DiCeglie

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 2, 2024, 4:18 PM

Amends Title XXXII (Regulation of Professions & Occupations), Chapter 474 (Veterinary Medical Practice), Section 474.2185 (Veterinarians consent; handwriting samples; mental or physical examinations) of Florida Statutes to provide for exemption from public records requirements for records relating to licensed veterinary technicians until specified criteria are met. Provides that that it is a public necessity that that medical reports pertaining to the mental or physical condition of a licensed veterinary technician obtained by the department as part of the complaint and investigation process be made confidential and exempt from Title X (Public Officers, Employees & Records), Chapter 119 (Public Records), Section 119.07 (Inspection and copying of records; photographing public records; fees; exemptions) of Florida Statutes, and s. 24 (Inspection and copying of records; photographing public records; fees; exemptions), Article I of the State Constitution. Provides that the rights of a licensed veterinary technician afforded under other state or federal laws that deem certain personal information confidential, such as protected health information covered by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, should be upheld and that the licensed veterinary technician's exempt or confidential information should not be disclosed to the public until probable cause is found and an administrative complaint is issued. Provides that that it is a public necessity that such information be made confidential and exempt until probable cause is found and an administrative complaint is issued.

**Introduction Date:** 2023-12-27

**Title**

Dangerous Dogs

**Description**

Citing this act as as the "Pam Rock Act"; requiring certain dog owners to securely confine their dogs in a proper enclosure; defining the term "department"; requiring, rather than authorizing, that dogs subject to certain dangerous dog investigations be confiscated, impounded, and held; requiring animal control authorities to provide certain information to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and to destroy certain dogs; requiring the department to create and maintain a statewide Dangerous Dog Registry, etc.

**Primary Sponsors**

Jay Collins, Senate Agriculture Committee

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 2, 2024, 7:42 PM

Amends Title XLV (Torts), Chapter 767 (Damage by Dogs; Dangerous Dogs) of Florida Statutes to further provide for dangerous dog investigations/registration and dog owner restrictions. Requires dog owners to securely confine their dogs in proper enclosure. Requires dogs subject to dangerous dog investigations be confiscated & held until completion of certain actions. Requires animal control to provide information to the FL Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services and to destroy certain dogs. Requires owner of dangerous dog to obtain liability insurance and revises civil penalty for violations. Requires that the FL Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services create and maintain a statewide Dangerous Dog Registry that provides the public with a searchable online database of dogs throughout this state which have been declared dangerous by local authorities. Revises when owner of dog that has not been declared dangerous is liable for such dog's severe injury to, or death of, human. Provides that police canines are exempt from certain provisions while on duty. For purposes of this section: "Dangerous dog" means any dog that according to the records of the appropriate authority: (1) Has aggressively bitten, attacked, or endangered or has inflicted severe injury on a human being on public or private property; (2) Has more than once severely injured or killed a domestic animal while off the owner's property; or (3) Has, when unprovoked, chased or approached a person upon the streets, sidewalks, or any public grounds in a menacing fashion or apparent attitude of attack, provided that such actions are attested to in a sworn statement by one or more persons and dutifully investigated by the appropriate authority.

**Introduction Date:** 2024-01-02

State <b>FL</b>	Bill Number <b>SB 1162</b>	Last Action <b>Died In Regulated Industries 2024 03 08</b>	Status <b>Failed</b>	Position <b>Monitor</b>
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**Title**  
Veterinary Practices

**Description**  
Designating the "Providing Equity in Telehealth Services Act"; authorizing licensed veterinarians to practice veterinary telehealth in accordance with specified criteria; specifying the conditions under which a veterinarian may practice veterinary telehealth; authorizing specified people to vaccinate dogs, cats, and ferrets against rabies if certain conditions are met, etc.

**Primary Sponsors**  
Blaise Ingoglia

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 3, 2024, 2:08 PM  
Amends Title XXXII (Regulation of Professions & Occupations), Chapter 474 (Veterinary Medical Practice) of Florida Statutes to: (1) Authorize licensed veterinarians to practice veterinary telehealth in accordance with specified criteria; (2) Specify powers of Board of Veterinary Medicine related to practice of telehealth; and (3) Specify drugs a veterinarian practicing telehealth may provide. Adds a new Section 474.2021 ("Providing Equity in Telehealth Services Act") to provide that a veterinarian who holds a current license to practice veterinary medicine in Florida may practice veterinary telehealth. Provides that the Board of Veterinary Medicine has jurisdiction over a veterinarian practicing veterinary telehealth, regardless of where the veterinarian's physical office is located. The practice of veterinary medicine is deemed to occur at the premises where the patient is located at the time the veterinarian practices veterinary telehealth. Provides that a veterinarian must prescribe all drugs and medications in accordance with all federal and state laws. Provides that a veterinarian may not use telehealth to prescribe a controlled substance listed in Schedule II of s. 893.03. Provides that, acting under the indirect supervision of a veterinarian, an employee, an agent, or a contractor of a county or municipal animal control authority or sheriff may vaccinate against rabies dogs, cats, and ferrets in the custody of an animal control authority or a sheriff that will be transferred, rescued, fostered, adopted, or reclaimed by the owner. Provides that the supervising veterinarian assumes responsibility for any person vaccinating animals at his or her direction or under his or her direct or indirect supervision.

**Introduction Date:** 2024-01-02

State <b>FL</b>	Bill Number <b>SB 1338</b>	Last Action <b>Died In Appropriations Committee On Agriculture Environment And General Government 2024 03 08</b>	Status <b>Failed</b>	Position <b>Monitor</b>
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**Title**  
Pet Health

**Description**  
Revising the definition of the term "property insurance"; providing that certain practices related to pet wellness programs are unfair methods of competition and unfair or deceptive acts or practices; designating the "Pet Insurance Act"; requiring pet insurers that use such defined terms in their pet insurance policies to use the statutory definition in their policies; requiring pet insurers to make certain disclosures to pet insurance applicants and policyholders, etc.

**Primary Sponsors**  
Nick DiCeglie, Senate Banking and Insurance Committee

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 5, 2024, 6:11 PM  
Amends Title XXXVII (Insurance) of Florida Statutes by creating a new Chapter 644 (Pet Insurance) to provide a comprehensive legal framework within which pet insurance may be sold in Florida. Provides that the requirements of this chapter shall apply to pet insurance policies that are issued to any resident of this state, and are sold, solicited, negotiated, or offered in this state, and policies or certificates that are delivered or issued for delivery in this state. Provides that all other applicable provisions of this state's insurance laws shall continue to apply to pet insurance, except that the specific provisions of this chapter shall supersede any general provisions of law that would otherwise be applicable to pet insurance. Provides for certain disclosures a pet insurer transacting pet insurance shall disclose to consumers (policy coverage exclusions, limitations, premiums) Provides that no pet insurer and/or producer shall market a wellness program as pet insurance. Provides that the Commissioner may adopt rules relative to the implementation of this chapter. For purposes of this section: "Pet insurance" means a property insurance policy that provides coverage for accidents and illnesses of pets.

**Introduction Date:** 2024-01-04

**Title**  
Sale of Rabbits

**Description**  
Prohibiting the sale of rabbits in specified locations and during specified months; specifying unlawful acts relating to the sale, offering for sale, and the giving away as merchandising premiums of certain rabbits; requiring local authorities to retrieve, return, and place abandoned rabbits in a specified manner; providing criminal penalties, etc.

**Primary Sponsors**  
Rosalind Osgood

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 5, 2024, 5:56 PM  
Amends Title XLVI (Crimes), Chapter 828 (Animals: Cruelty; Sales; Animal Enterprise Protection) of Florida Statutes by creating a new Section 828.1618 (Rabbits) to restrict the sale of rabbits in retail pet stores. Provides that the sale of rabbits is prohibited in retail pet stores during the months of March and April. Provides that during the months of March and April, retail stores shall keep rabbits in a separate area, off the sales floor and out of view of the public, and label each cage, kennel, or enclosure with signage indicating that the rabbits are not for sale until May 1. Provides that it is unlawful to sell, offer for sale, or give away as a merchandising premium any rabbit under 2 months of age to be used as a pet, toy, or retail premium. Provides that each rabbit offered for sale at a retail pet store must: (1) Be kept one per cage, kennel, or enclosure to avoid unwanted pregnancies. The cage, kennel, or enclosure must be kept clean and dry and may not have wire floors; (2) Have proper food, water, and hay for digestion at all times; (3) Have signage posted on the cage, kennel, or enclosure which includes the date of birth; name, city, and state of the breeder; and microchip number of the rabbit. Provides for mandatory microchipping, certificate of source, veterinary inspection, recordkeeping, signage, and disposition of abandoned rabbits requirements. Provides that a city, county, or any investigating official may enter the premises of any retail pet store during regular business hours to conduct reasonable inspections to ensure and verify compliance with this section. A person may not refuse or interfere with a lawful inspection of a retail pet store by investigating officials. Exempt from the provisions of this section are rabbits raised for: (1) Agricultural purposes by persons with proper facilities to care for them; (2) Livestock exhibitions; and (3) Future Farmers of America or 4-H activities.

**Introduction Date:** 2024-01-05

**Title**

Retail Sale of Domestic Dogs and Cats

**Description**

Defining the terms "pet store" and "sell or offer for sale"; prohibiting pet stores from selling or offering for sale domestic dogs and cats, etc.

**Primary Sponsors**

Clay Yarborough

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 6, 2024, 3:07 PM

Amends: (1) Title XLVI (Crimes), Chapter 828 (Animals: Cruelty; Sales; Animal Enterprise Protection) of Florida Statutes by creating a new Section 828.32 (Retail Sale of Domestic Dogs and Cats) to prohibit pet stores from selling or offering for sale domestic dogs & cats; and (2) Title XXVIII (Natural Resources; Conservation; Reclamation & Use), Chapter 379 (Fish & Wildlife Conservation), Section 379.372 (Capturing, keeping, possessing, transporting, or exhibiting venomous reptiles, reptiles of concern, conditional reptiles, or prohibited reptiles; license required) of Florida Statutes to revise provisions concerning specified activities involving iguanas. New Section 828.32: Provides that a pet store may not sell or offer for sale a domestic dog or cat. Provides that the sale or offer for sale of a domestic dog or cat in violation of this section is a noncriminal violation, punishable by a fine of \$500 (each sale or offer for sale is a separate offense). Does not prohibit the enactment or enforcement of a municipal or county ordinance restricting the sale or offer for sale of animals that is more stringent than this section. For purposes of this section: "Pet store" means a for-profit business that sells or offers for sale animals to the public at retail. The term does not include a person who sells or offers for sale directly to the public only animals that the person bred and raised. "Sell or offer for sale" means to advertise or display for sale, barter, or trade. Section 379.372 amendment: Provides that a person, party, firm, association, or corporation may not keep, possess, import into the state, sell, barter, trade, or breed Iguanas except for educational, research, or eradication or control purposes. Current statute = Green Iguanas (Iguana iguana).

**Introduction Date:** 2024-01-05

**Title**  
Taxation

**Description**

Prohibiting a plan for tourist development from allocating more than a certain percentage of the tax revenue to a publicly owned and operated convention center for certain purposes, unless approved by a supermajority vote; providing that a taxpayer has a right to know certain information regarding property determined not to have been entitled to a homestead exemption; revising the definition of the term "renewable energy source device"; providing that taxpayers are not responsible for specified payments in certain circumstances; revising conditions for when multifamily projects are considered property used for a charitable purpose and are eligible to receive an ad valorem property tax exemption; revising the value to which a certain ad valorem property tax exemption applies, etc.

**Primary Sponsors**

Senate Appropriations Committee, Senate Finance and Tax Committee

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Feb 21, 2024, 6:13 PM

Amends Title XIV (Taxation & Finance), Chapter 212 (Tax on Sale, Use, and Other Transactions) of Florida Statutes by adding a new section (Disaster preparedness supplies; sales tax holiday) to exempt from sales and use tax specified disaster preparedness supplies (to include certain pet supplies) during specified timeframes. Provides that the tax levied under Chapter 212, Florida Statutes, may not be collected during the period from June 1, 2024, through June 14, 2024, or during the period from August 24, 2024, through September 6, 2024, on the sale of the following supplies necessary for the evacuation of household pets purchased for noncommercial use: (1) Bags of dry dog food or cat food weighing 50 or fewer pounds with a sales price of \$100 or less per bag; (2) Cans or pouches of wet dog food or cat food with a sales price of \$10 or less per can or pouch or the equivalent if sold in a box or case; (3) Over-the-counter pet medications with a sales price of \$100 or less per item; (4) Portable kennels or pet carriers with a sales price of \$100 or less per item; (5) Leashes, collars, and muzzles with a sales price of \$20 or less per item; (6) Collapsible or travel-sized food bowls or water bowls with a sales price of \$15 or less per item; (7) Cat litter weighing 25 or fewer pounds with a sales price of \$25 or less per item; (8) Cat litter pans with a sales price of \$15 or less per item; (9) Pet waste disposal bags with a sales price of \$15 or less per package; (10) Pet pads with a sales price of \$20 or less per box or package; (11) Hamster or rabbit substrate with a sales price of \$15 or less per package; and (12) Pet beds with a sales price of \$40 or less per item.

**Introduction Date:** 2024-02-21