

1-1 By: Aycock (Senate Sponsor - Hegar) H.B. No. 413  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 11, 2011;  
1-3 April 20, 2011, read first time and referred to Committee on  
1-4 Agriculture and Rural Affairs; May 11, 2011, reported favorably by  
1-5 the following vote: Yeas 3, Nays 0; May 11, 2011, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to the confidentiality of certain information held by a  
1-9 veterinarian.

1-10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-11 SECTION 1. Section 801.353, Occupations Code, is amended by  
1-12 adding Subsections (d-1) and (g) and amending Subsection (f) to  
1-13 read as follows:

1-14 (d-1) The privilege provided by this section is waived by  
1-15 the client or the owner of the animal treated by the veterinarian in  
1-16 a proceeding to substantiate and collect on a debt incurred for  
1-17 veterinary services.

1-18 (f) A veterinarian does not violate this section by  
1-19 providing the name or address of a client, or the rabies vaccination  
1-20 status of a specific client's specific animal, to a public health  
1-21 authority, veterinarian, or physician who requests the identity of  
1-22 the client to obtain information for:

1-23 (1) the verification of a rabies vaccination; ~~or~~

1-24 (2) other treatment involving a life-threatening  
1-25 situation; or

1-26 (3) a public health purpose.

1-27 (g) A public health authority that receives information  
1-28 under Subsection (f) shall maintain the confidentiality of the  
1-29 information, may not disclose the information under Chapter 552,  
1-30 Government Code, and may not use the information for a purpose that  
1-31 does not directly relate to the protection of public health and  
1-32 safety.

1-33 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

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