

By: Perry

S.B. No. 721

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to treatment and care provided by licensed medical  
3 professionals to animals in certain facilities.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Section 801.004, Occupations Code, is amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 Sec. 801.004. APPLICATION OF CHAPTER. This chapter does  
8 not apply to:

9 (1) the treatment or care of an animal in any manner by  
10 the owner of the animal, an employee of the owner, or a designated  
11 caretaker of the animal, unless the ownership, employment, or  
12 designation is established with the intent to violate this chapter;

13 (2) a person who performs an act prescribed by the  
14 board as an accepted livestock management practice, including:

15 (A) castrating a male animal raised for human  
16 consumption;

17 (B) docking or earmarking an animal raised for  
18 human consumption;

19 (C) dehorning cattle;

20 (D) aiding in the nonsurgical birth process of a  
21 large animal, as defined by board rule;

22 (E) treating an animal for disease prevention  
23 with a nonprescription medicine or vaccine;

24 (F) branding or identifying an animal in any

1 manner;

2 (G) artificially inseminating an animal,  
3 including training, inseminating, and compensating for services  
4 related to artificial insemination; and

5 (H) shoeing a horse;

6 (3) the performance of a cosmetic or production  
7 technique to reduce injury in poultry intended for human  
8 consumption;

9 (4) the performance of a duty by a veterinarian's  
10 employee if:

11 (A) the duty involves food production animals;

12 (B) the duty does not involve diagnosis,  
13 prescription, or surgery;

14 (C) the employee is under the direction and  
15 general supervision of the veterinarian; and

16 (D) the veterinarian is responsible for the  
17 employee's performance;

18 (5) the performance of an act by a person who is a  
19 full-time student of an accredited college of veterinary medicine  
20 if the act is performed under the direct supervision of a  
21 veterinarian;

22 (6) an animal shelter employee who performs euthanasia  
23 in the course and scope of the person's employment if the person has  
24 successfully completed training in accordance with Chapter 829,  
25 Health and Safety Code;

26 (7) a person who is engaged in a recognized  
27 state-federal cooperative disease eradication or control program

1 or an external parasite control program while the person is  
2 performing official duties required by the program;

3 (8) a person who, without expectation of compensation,  
4 provides emergency care in an emergency or disaster; ~~[or]~~

5 (9) a consultation given to a veterinarian in this  
6 state by a person who:

7 (A) resides in another state; and

8 (B) is lawfully qualified to practice veterinary  
9 medicine under the laws of that state; or

10 (10) a licensed health care professional who, without  
11 expectation of compensation and under the direct supervision of a  
12 veterinarian, provides treatment or care to an animal owned by or in  
13 the possession, control, or custody of an entity accredited by the  
14 Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

15 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
16 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
17 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
18 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
19 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.