

By: Springer

H.B. No. 2787

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to certain confidential or privileged information related to veterinary care or treatment.

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

SECTION 1. Section 801.353, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Subsections (d-2) and (f-1) and amending Subsection (g) to read as follows:

(d-2) The privilege provided by this section is waived by the client or the owner of the animal treated by the veterinarian with respect to information regarding the animal's care and treatment by the veterinarian that the client or owner publishes in a public forum.

(f-1) A veterinarian does not violate this section by providing to a veterinarian or an appropriate governmental entity information regarding:

(1) the prescribing, dispensing, or requesting of a controlled substance; or

(2) cruelty to or an attack of an animal.

(g) A public health authority or other governmental entity that receives information under Subsection (f) or (f-1) shall maintain the confidentiality of the information, may not disclose the information under Chapter 552, Government Code, and may not use the information for a purpose that does not directly relate to law enforcement or the protection of public health and safety.

1 SECTION 2. Section 801.353, Occupations Code, as amended by
2 this Act, applies only to the disclosure or release of information
3 under that section on or after the effective date of this Act. The
4 disclosure or release of information before that date is governed
5 by the law in effect on the date of the disclosure or release, and
6 the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

7 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.