

# STATE OF NEW YORK

---

5716

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

April 26, 2017

---

Introduced by Sen. LANZA -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law and the education law, in relation to authorizing emergency medical service personnel to provide certain emergency medical care to cats and dogs under certain circumstances

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Section 3013 of the public health law is amended by adding  
2 two new subdivisions 7 and 8 to read as follows:

3 7. No certified first responder, emergency medical technician, or  
4 advanced emergency medical technician acting in accordance with section  
5 three thousand eighteen of this article, nor any ambulance service or  
6 advanced life support first response service of which such person is a  
7 member or employee, who renders emergency medical assistance to a dog or  
8 cat pursuant to such section, shall have any civil or criminal liability  
9 or have any liability for violating article one hundred thirty-five of  
10 the education law, for the provision of such care, or any damages to or  
11 death of any dog or cat alleged to have occurred by reason of an act or  
12 omission in rendering such medical assistance in an emergency unless it  
13 is established that such injuries were or such death was caused by gross  
14 negligence on the part of such certified first responder, emergency  
15 medical technician or advanced emergency medical technician as deter-  
16 mined by the rules and regulations of the state board for veterinary  
17 medicine established pursuant to subdivision two of section sixty-seven  
18 hundred three of the education law and any off-site instructions of a  
19 veterinarian providing supervision during such emergency.

20 8. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any veterina-  
21 rian who provides off-site instruction, pursuant to section three thou-  
22 sand eighteen of this article, to any certified first responder, emer-  
23 gency medical technician or advanced emergency medical technician  
24 providing emergency medical assistance to a dog or cat shall not be

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD11236-01-7

1 liable for damages for injuries or death alleged to have been sustained  
2 by any dog or cat as a result of such instruction unless it is estab-  
3 lished that such injuries or death were caused by gross negligence on  
4 the part of such veterinarian.

5 § 2. The public health law is amended by adding a new section 3018 to  
6 read as follows:

7 § 3018. Emergency medical care to dogs and cats. 1. In course of  
8 responding to any emergency, a certified first responder, emergency  
9 medical technician or advanced emergency medical technician may, in  
10 accordance with the rules and regulations of the state board for veteri-  
11 nary medicine, provide emergency medical care to a dog or cat prior to  
12 the transfer of such animal to the care of a veterinarian. The emergency  
13 medical care to cats and dogs pursuant to this section shall be limited  
14 to the following, if the certified first responder, emergency medical  
15 technician or advanced emergency medical technician is able and author-  
16 ized to provide such care to a human:

17 (a) opening and manually maintaining an airway;

18 (b) providing mouth to mouth or mouth to barrier ventilation;

19 (c) administering oxygen;

20 (d) managing ventilation by mask;

21 (e) controlling hemorrhage with direct pressure;

22 (f) immobilizing fractures;

23 (g) bandaging; and

24 (h) administering naloxone hydrochloride to the extent authorized by  
25 law, rule or regulation and as directed by a veterinarian.

26 2. To the extent practicable, each certified first responder, emergen-  
27 cy medical technician or advanced emergency medical technician, during  
28 the course of providing emergency medical care to a dog or cat pursuant  
29 to this section, shall communicate with a veterinarian for the purpose  
30 of consulting upon the provision of such care.

31 3. The state board for veterinary medicine shall promulgate such rules  
32 and regulations as shall be necessary to implement the provisions of  
33 this section.

34 § 3. Section 6701 of the education law, as amended by chapter 268 of  
35 the laws of 2014, is amended to read as follows:

36 § 6701. Definition of practice of veterinary medicine. The practice of  
37 the profession of veterinary medicine is defined as diagnosing, treat-  
38 ing, operating, or prescribing for any animal disease, pain, injury,  
39 deformity or dental or physical condition, or the subcutaneous insertion  
40 of a microchip intended to be used to identify an animal, or the  
41 provision of instruction to any certified first responder, emergency  
42 medical technician or advanced emergency medical technician providing  
43 emergency medical care to a dog or cat pursuant to section three thou-  
44 sand eighteen of the public health law. "Animal" includes every living  
45 creature except a human being. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions  
46 of this section, no provisions of this section shall be construed to  
47 include the floating of equine teeth as being within the practice of  
48 veterinary medicine.

49 § 4. The opening paragraph of section 6703 of the education law is  
50 designated subdivision 1 and a new subdivision 2 is added to read as  
51 follows:

52 2. The state board for veterinary medicine shall promulgate rules and  
53 regulations for the provision of emergency medical care to dogs and cats  
54 by emergency medical care personnel pursuant to section three thousand  
55 eighteen of the public health law.

1     § 5. Section 6705 of the education law is amended by adding a new  
2 subdivision 16 to read as follows:

3     16. A certified first responder, emergency medical technician or  
4 advanced emergency medical technician to the extent authorized by  
5 section three thousand eighteen of the public health law.

6     § 6. This act shall take effect immediately, except that sections one,  
7 two, three and five of this act shall take effect on the first of Janu-  
8 ary next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.