

SENATE, No. 715

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator DAWN MARIE ADDIEGO

District 8 (Atlantic, Burlington and Camden)

Senator TROY SINGLETON

District 7 (Burlington)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Good Samaritan Law to provide immunity from civil liability for veterinarians or emergency responders who assist animals at accident scene or emergency.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** concerning immunity from civil liability and
2 supplementing P.L.1963, c.140 (C.2A:62A-1 et seq.).

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. a. As used in this section:

8 “Emergency care” means the use of resuscitative measures and
9 other immediate treatment provided in response to a sudden, acute, and
10 unanticipated medical crisis in order to avoid injury, impairment, or
11 death.

12 “Emergency responder” means a law enforcement officer, paid or
13 volunteer firefighter, paid or volunteer member of a duly incorporated
14 first aid, emergency, ambulance, or rescue squad association, or any
15 other individual who, in the course of employment, provides medical
16 care or other assistance at the scene of an accident or emergency.

17 b. An emergency responder or veterinarian who in good faith
18 renders emergency care to an animal at the scene of an accident or
19 emergency shall not be liable for any civil damages as a result of any
20 acts or omissions in rendering the emergency care. Nothing in this
21 section shall exonerate an emergency responder or veterinarian from
22 gross negligence.

23

24 2. This act shall take effect immediately

25

26

27

STATEMENT

28

29 This bill provides immunity from civil liability to veterinarians
30 and emergency responders who in good faith render emergency care
31 to an animal at the scene of an accident or emergency. The bill
32 defines emergency responder as a law enforcement officer, paid or
33 volunteer firefighter, paid or volunteer member of a duly incorporated
34 first aid, emergency, ambulance, or rescue squad association, or any
35 other individual who, in the course of employment, provides medical
36 care or other assistance at the scene of an accident or emergency.

37 In order to encourage individuals to render assistance at accident
38 scenes, New Jersey has adopted “Good Samaritan” acts to provide
39 civil immunity for individuals who in good faith render care at the
40 scene of an accident or in an emergency. In its present form, the
41 “Good Samaritan Act” provides immunity to: (1) any individual,
42 including health care professionals; (2) members of volunteer first
43 aid, rescue, and ambulance squads; (3) municipal, county and State
44 law enforcement officers; (4) municipal, county, or State
45 firefighters, whether volunteer or paid; and (5) licensed health care
46 professionals, emergency medical technicians, and mobile intensive
47 care paramedics whose duties do not require a response to a patient
48 emergency situation.

S715 ADDIEGO, SINGLETON

3

1 This bill extends that civil immunity to veterinarians and
2 emergency responders who assist animals at the scene of an
3 accident or emergency.