Sponsored by:
Senator DAWN MARIE ADDIEGO
District 8 (Atlantic, Burlington and Camden)

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

As introduced.
AN ACT concerning immunity from civil liability and

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

1. a. As used in this section:
   “Emergency care” means the use of resuscitative measures and
   other immediate treatment provided in response to a sudden, acute, and
   unanticipated medical crisis in order to avoid injury, impairment, or
death.
   “Emergency responder” means a law enforcement officer, paid or
   volunteer firefighter, paid or volunteer member of a duly incorporated
   first aid, emergency, ambulance, or rescue squad association, or any
   other individual who, in the course of employment, provides medical
   care or other assistance at the scene of an accident or emergency.
   b. An emergency responder or veterinarian who in good faith
   renders emergency care to an animal at the scene of an accident or
   emergency shall not be liable for any civil damages as a result of any
   acts or omissions in rendering the emergency care. Nothing in this
   section shall exonerate an emergency responder or veterinarian from
gross negligence.

2. This act shall take effect immediately

STATEMENT

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

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