

45:16-9.10 and 45:16-9.11

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA 45:16-9.10 and 45:16-9.11 (Veterinarians--"Good Samaritan" immunity from liability)

LAWS 1980 CHAPTER 175

Bill No. S1076

Sponsor(s) Bedell

Date Introduced Feb. 25, 1980

Committee: Assembly Agriculture and Environment  
Senate Labor, Industry and Professions

Amended during passage Yes  Amendments during passage denoted by asterisks

Date of Passage: Assembly Oct. 6, 1980  
Senate May 1, 1980

Date of approval Dec. 29, 1980

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Committee Statement: Assembly	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Senate	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (not attached since identical to Senate Committee statement)
Fiscal Note	<del>Yes</del>	No
Veto Message	<del>Yes</del>	No
Message on signing	<del>Yes</del>	No

Following were printed:

Reports	<del>Yes</del>	No
Hearings	<del>Yes</del>	No

6/22/81

175  
12-29-80 80

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SENATE, No. 1076

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 1980

By Senator BEDELL

Referred to Committee on Labor, Industry and Professions

AN ACT concerning the practice of veterinary medicine with respect to rendering emergency treatment and supplementing chapter 16 of Title 45 of the Revised Statutes.

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

1 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "New Jersey  
2 Veterinary Good Samaritan Law."

1 2. Any individual licensed to practice veterinary medicine who,  
2 in good faith, renders emergency care to any animal *\*which has,*  
3 *immediately prior to the rendering of such care, been brought to*  
4 *such individual's attention at or from the scene of an accident or*  
5 *emergency situation or has been discovered by such individual at*  
6 *the scene of an accident or emergency situation\** shall not be liable  
7 for any civil damages as a result of any acts or omissions by such  
8 person in rendering the emergency care.

1 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

**EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

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STATEMENT

The purpose of this bill is to give veterinarians the same degree of protection from civil suit for treating animals in emergency situations as the law presently affords other health care practitioners who provide emergency treatment to humans.

The bill is, in fact, patterned after N. J. S. 2A:62A-1 which reads as follows:

"Any individual, including a person licensed to practice any method of treatment of human ailments, disease, pain, injury, deformity, mental or physical condition, or licensed to render services ancillary thereto, who in good faith renders emergency care at the scene of an accident or emergency to the victim or victims thereof, shall not be liable for any civil damages as a result of any acts or omissions by such person in rendering the emergency care." L. 1963, c. 140, s. 1. Amended by L. 1968, c. 254, s. 1.

ASSEMBLY AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO  
**SENATE, No. 1076**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MAY 22, 1980

This bill exempts from tort liability any licensed veterinarian who, in good faith, renders emergency care to an animal.

This bill is in response to a recent ruling of the New Jersey State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners which mandated "veterinarians shall provide emergency care." Senate Bill No. 1076 would insure that veterinarians would not be liable for civil damages as a result of that care.

This bill would give veterinarians the same degree of protection from civil suit for treating animals in emergency situations as the law presently affords other health care practitioners who provide emergency treatment to humans.