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Sectional Analysis

House Bill 70, Version G.A - “Rico’s Law”

An act related to emergency medical services and operational canines.

Section 1: Amends AS 08.98.125 to allow emergency medical technicians and mobile intensive care paramedics to perform emergency medical services on an operational canine as authorized under AS 18.08.093 without a license to practice veterinary medicine.

Section 2: Amends AS 18.08.075(a) to authorize emergency medical technicians and mobile intensive care paramedic to enter a building or premises where a report of an injury or illness has taken place, or where there is reasonable cause to believe an operational canine has been injured or is ill, to render emergency medical care and direct the removal of a motor vehicle or other thing determined necessary to prevent further harm to operational canines.

Section 3: Amends AS 18.08.082(a) to direct the Department of Health to prescribe a course or other requirements prerequisite to the issuance of certificates or licenses that provide for authorization for a licensed emergency medical technician or mobile intensive care paramedic to provide emergency medical services to an operational canine as enumerated on a written document filed with the department by the medical director and approved by the department in regulation.

Section 4: Amends AS 18.08.086(a) to provide for civil liability protection to providers, or a director of a provider licensed under AS 18.08.082 who administers emergency medical services to an operational canine within the scope of the person’s certification or licensure and if the operational canine reasonably seems to be in immediate danger of serious harm or death.

Section 5: Amends AS 18.08.087 to remove language limiting physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, or physician assistants’ permission to disclose medical information of a patient to emergency medical technicians and mobile intensive care paramedics when the information is not for the purpose of evaluating the performance of an emergency medical technician, mobile intensive care paramedic or physician.

Section 6: Adds two new subsections to AS 18.08.087. The first allows licensed veterinarians to disclose medical or hospital records of an operational canine to an emergency medical technician or mobile intensive care paramedic for the purpose of evaluating the performance of an emergency medical technician or mobile intensive care paramedic. The second adds language

restricting physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, or physician assistants' permission to disclose medical information of a patient to emergency medical technicians and mobile intensive care paramedics when the information is not for the purpose of evaluating the performance of an emergency medical technician, mobile intensive care paramedic or physician.

Section 7: Adds one new section to AS 18.08 with three subsections. Subsection (a) allows emergency medical technicians or mobile intensive care paramedics to provide emergency medical services to an operational canine if the emergency medical technician or mobile intensive care paramedic reasonably determines there is immediate danger of serious harm to or death of the operational canine, determines that a veterinarian is unavailable to provide emergency medical services to the operational canine soon enough to address the danger, is authorized to provide emergency medical services to an operational canine, and has informed consent from the owner or someone authorized to make medical decisions about the operational canine or is providing medical service in accordance with a written protocol developed by a veterinarian. Subsection (b) requires the emergency medical technician or mobile intensive care paramedic to transfer the operational canine to a licensed veterinarian at the earliest practicable opportunity. Subsection (c) prohibits emergency medical technicians and mobile intensive care paramedics to provide care to operational canines if a person requires emergency medical services.

Section 8: Amends AS 18.08.200 to define “veterinarian” in this chapter the same as it is under AS 08.98 and “operational canine” as a dog used by law enforcement or other government operations; or in search and rescue operations.

Section 9: Sets an effective date of January 1st, 2026.