

House Bill 538

By: Representatives Turner of the 21st, Caldwell of the 20th, Drenner of the 85th, Floyd of the 99th, Raffensperger of the 50th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 4 of Chapter 12 of Title 24 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to medical and other confidential information, so as to provide an exception for
3 confidentiality of veterinarian records necessary for medical treatment of an individual; to
4 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Article 4 of Chapter 12 of Title 24 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
8 medical and other confidential information, is amended by revising Code Section 24-12-31,
9 relating to confidential nature of veterinarian records, as follows:

10 "24-12-31.

11 (a) No veterinarian licensed under Chapter 50 of Title 43 shall be required to disclose any
12 information concerning the veterinarian's care of an animal except on written authorization
13 or other waiver by the veterinarian's client or on appropriate court order or subpoena. Any
14 veterinarian releasing information under written authorization or other waiver by the client
15 or under court order or subpoena shall not be liable to the client or any other person. The
16 confidentiality provided by this Code section shall be waived to the extent that the
17 veterinarian's client places the veterinarian's care and treatment of the animal or the nature
18 and extent of injuries to the animal at issue in any judicial proceeding. As used in this
19 Code section, the term 'client' means the owner of the animal; or if the owner of the animal
20 is unknown, client means the person who presents the animal to the veterinarian for care
21 and treatment.

22 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this Code section or any other law
23 to the contrary, a veterinarian shall be required to disclose any information medically
24 relevant to the care and treatment of any person bitten or contacted by an animal within
25 such veterinarian's care. Such information shall be made available to such person or to his
26 or her legal guardian or physician."

27

SECTION 2.

28 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.