

# Take action to oppose efforts to weaken the veterinarian-client-patient relationship in Florida!

AVMA strongly opposes any effort to weaken the veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR), including language that would allow a VCPR to be established without an in-person physical exam. Such changes endanger veterinary care for our patients and lower the quality of services we can deliver.

As introduced, Florida's HB 911/SB 1370 represent an unlimited and dangerous expansion of veterinary telemedicine by not requiring an initial physical exam to establish the veterinarian-client-patient relationship. After intense negotiations with the Senate Committee on Agriculture, the Florida Veterinary Medical Association (FVMA) was able to amend SB 1370 to minimize the negative impacts of the bill. However, the amended version of SB 1370 still allows use of telemedicine in certain circumstances without an in-person exam to establish the VCPR, so we remain opposed.

AVMA is asking for your help to oppose these bills. Please call and email four legislators critical to the fate of these bills:

Representative Ingoglia

Tel: (850) 717-5035

Email Link:

<https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/contactmember.aspx?MemberId=4603>

- I am calling/writing as a Florida veterinarian to express my concern regarding HB 911, relating to veterinary telemedicine.
- I support the use of telemedicine once the veterinarian-client-patient relationship has been established through a physical exam. The physical exam is important to protect pets from misdiagnosis and delays in treatment. This would also impact the safe shipment of food animals within FL.
- HB 911 represents an unlimited and dangerous expansion of veterinary telemedicine by not requiring that initial physical exam. This bill would ultimately harm animals in FL.
- As a veterinarian, I cannot support HB 911 and ask that you not agenda the bill for a committee hearing.

Senator Passidomo

Tel: (850) 487-5028

Email Link: <https://www.flsenate.gov/Senators/S28>

Senator Garcia

Tel: (850) 487-5037

Email Link: <https://www.flsenate.gov/Senators/S37>