

House Bill 886

By: Representatives Welch of the 110th, McCall of the 33rd, and Knight of the 130th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 11 of Title 4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to general provisions regarding animal protection, so as to require veterinarians or
3 veterinary technicians that provide treatment to animals to scan such animals' microchips and
4 to report ownership information under certain circumstances; to allow such professionals to
5 appear and testify regarding the ownership and treatment of such animals; to provide such
6 professionals with immunity; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and
7 for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Article 1 of Chapter 11 of Title 4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
11 general provisions regarding animal protection, is amended by adding a new Code section
12 to read as follows:

13 "4-11-17.1.

14 (a) Notwithstanding Code Section 24-12-31 or any other provision of law to the contrary,
15 a licensed veterinarian or veterinary technician that provides care to an animal shall scan
16 such animal for a microchip and shall make or cause to be made a report to the
17 Commissioner, his or her designee, an animal control officer, a law enforcement agency,
18 or a prosecuting attorney if the microchip information indicates a different owner than the
19 individual or individuals presenting the animal for treatment, and such licensed veterinarian
20 or veterinary technician may appear and testify in any judicial or administrative proceeding
21 concerning the ownership and treatment of such animal.

22 (b) Any person participating in the making of a report pursuant to this Code section or
23 participating in any administrative or judicial proceeding pursuant to this article or Title
24 16 shall, in so doing, be immune from any civil or criminal liability that might otherwise
25 be incurred or imposed, provided that such participation pursuant to this Code section or
26 any other law is made in good faith."

27

SECTION 2.

28 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.