

By Representative Barreiro

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to Search and Rescue (SAR)  
3           dogs; amending s. 843.19, F.S.; defining the  
4           term "SAR dog"; prohibiting the injuring or  
5           killing of an SAR dog under specified  
6           circumstances; providing penalties; providing  
7           an effective date.

8  
9   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

10  
11           Section 1. Section 843.19, Florida Statutes, is  
12   amended to read:

13           843.19 Injuring or killing police dog, ~~or~~ fire dog,  
14   SAR dog, or police horse prohibited; penalty.--

15           (1) As used in this section, the term:

16           (a) "Police dog" means any dog, and "police horse"  
17   means any horse, that ~~which~~ is owned, or the service of which  
18   is employed, by a law enforcement agency for the principal  
19   purpose of aiding in the detection of criminal activity,  
20   enforcement of laws, or apprehension of offenders.

21           (b) "Fire dog" means any dog that ~~which~~ is owned, or  
22   the service of which is employed, by a fire department, a  
23   special fire district, or the State Fire Marshal, ~~for the~~  
24   principal purpose of aiding in the detection of flammable  
25   materials or the investigation of fires.

26           (c) "SAR dog" means any dog that is owned, or the  
27   service of which is employed, by a fire department, a special  
28   fire district, or the State Fire Marshal for the principal  
29   purpose of aiding in the detection of missing persons,  
30   including, but not limited to, persons who are lost, who are

31

1 trapped under debris as the result of a natural or manmade  
2 disaster, or who are drowning victims.

3 (2) Any person who knowingly and willfully and without  
4 lawful cause or justification inflicts great bodily harm,  
5 permanent disability, or death upon a police dog,~~or~~ fire dog,  
6 SAR dog, or police horse commits a felony of the third degree,  
7 punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s.  
8 775.084.

9 Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 1997.

10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31

\*\*\*\*\*

SENATE SUMMARY

Declares it to be a third-degree felony to harm, disable,  
or kill an SAR dog, as defined.