

By Senator Saunders

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to guide dogs and service animals; prohibiting persons from interfering with, injuring, or killing guide dogs or service animals; providing penalties; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. (1) Any person who, through culpable negligence, interferes or permits a dog that he owns or is in the immediate control of, to interfere with the use of a guide dog or service animal by obstructing, intimidating, or otherwise jeopardizing the safety of the animal or its user is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree for the first offense and a misdemeanor of the first degree for each subsequent offense, punishable as provided in section 775.082 or section 775.083, Florida Statutes.

(2) Any person who, through culpable negligence, injures or kills, or permits a dog that he owns or is in the immediate control of to injure or kill, a guide dog or service animal is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in section 775.082 or section 775.083, Florida Statutes.

(3) Any person who intentionally injures or kills, or permits a dog that he owns or is in the immediate control of to injure or kill, a guide dog or service animal is guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in section 775.082 or section 775.083, Florida Statutes.

(4)(a) A person who is convicted of a violation of this section must also make full restitution for all damages

1 that arise out of or are related to the offense, including
2 incidental and consequential damages incurred by the guide dog
3 or service animal's user.

4 (b) Restitution includes the value of the animal;
5 replacement and training or retraining expenses for the animal
6 and the user; veterinary and other medical and boarding
7 expenses for the animal; medical expenses for the user; and
8 lost wages or income incurred by the user during any period
9 that the user is without the services of such an animal.

10 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

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13 SENATE SUMMARY

14 Prohibits the interference with, injury to, or killing of
15 a guide dog or service animal. Provides penalties.