

By Senator Haridopolos

26-981-05

See HB 583

1                                   A bill to be entitled

2           An act relating to police dogs, fire dogs, SAR

3           dogs, and police horses; amending s. 843.19,

4           F.S.; prohibiting intentionally and knowingly

5           causing great bodily harm to or using a deadly

6           weapon upon a police dog, fire dog, SAR dog, or

7           police horse; prohibiting actually and

8           intentionally maliciously touching, striking,

9           or causing bodily harm to a police dog, fire

10          dog, SAR dog, or police horse; prohibiting

11          maliciously harassing, teasing, interfering

12          with, or attempting to interfere with a police

13          dog, fire dog, SAR dog, or police horse while

14          the animal is in the performance of its duties;

15          providing penalties; providing for restitution

16          from violators; providing application;

17          providing an effective date.

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

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21           Section 1. Section 843.19, Florida Statutes, is

22 amended to read:

23           843.19 Offenses against ~~Injuring or killing~~ police

24 dogs ~~dog~~, fire dogs ~~dog~~, SAR dogs ~~dog~~, or police horses ~~horse~~

25 ~~prohibited; penalty.--~~

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

27           (a) "Police dog" means any dog, and "police horse"

28 means any horse, that is owned, or the service of which is

29 employed, by a law enforcement agency for the principal

30 purpose of aiding in the detection of criminal activity,

31 enforcement of laws, or apprehension of offenders.

1 (b) "Fire dog" means any dog that is owned, or the  
2 service of which is employed, by a fire department, a special  
3 fire district, or the State Fire Marshal for the principal  
4 purpose of aiding in the detection of flammable materials or  
5 the investigation of fires.

6 (c) "SAR dog" means any search and rescue dog that is  
7 owned, or the service of which is utilized, by a fire  
8 department, a law enforcement agency, a special fire district,  
9 or the State Fire Marshal for the principal purpose of aiding  
10 in the detection of missing persons, including, but not  
11 limited to, persons who are lost, who are trapped under debris  
12 as the result of a natural, manmade, or technological  
13 disaster, or who are drowning victims.

14 (2) Any person who intentionally and knowingly causes  
15 ~~and willfully and without lawful cause or justification~~  
16 inflicts great bodily harm, permanent disability, or death to,  
17 or uses a deadly weapon upon, a police dog, fire dog, SAR dog,  
18 or police horse commits a felony of the third degree,  
19 punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s.  
20 775.084.

21 (3) Any person who actually and intentionally  
22 maliciously touches, strikes, or causes bodily harm to a  
23 police dog, fire dog, SAR dog, or police horse commits a  
24 misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s.  
25 775.082 or s. 775.083.

26 (4) Any person who intentionally or knowingly  
27 maliciously harasses, teases, interferes with, or attempts to  
28 interfere with a police dog, fire dog, SAR dog, or police  
29 horse while the animal is in the performance of its duties  
30 commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as  
31 provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

1           (5) A person convicted of an offense under this  
2 section shall make restitution for injuries caused to the  
3 police dog, fire dog, SAR dog, or police horse and shall pay  
4 the replacement cost of the animal if, as a result of the  
5 offense, the animal can no longer perform its duties.

6           Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005,  
7 and shall apply to offenses occurring on or after that date.

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