

By Senator Fasano

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to police dogs; requiring law
3 enforcement agencies to provide specified veterinary
4 services, including cremation services, for police
5 dogs that have retired from the agency's service;
6 defining terms; providing an effective date.

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

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10 Section 1. Retired police dogs; veterinary services.-

11 (1) Each law enforcement agency shall provide all police
12 dogs retired from the agency's service with veterinary care for
13 the remainder of the dog's life. This requirement is effective
14 upon the transfer of ownership of the dog from the law
15 enforcement agency to the former handler or adopter of the dog.

16 (2) As used in this section, the term:

17 (a) "Law enforcement agency" means a state agency or
18 political subdivision having primary responsibility for the
19 prevention and detection of crime or the enforcement of the
20 penal, traffic, game, regulatory, or highway laws of this state
21 if its agents and officers are empowered by law to conduct
22 criminal investigations and make arrests.

23 (b) "Police dog" means any dog that is owned, or the
24 service of which is employed, by a law enforcement agency for
25 the principal purpose of aiding in:

26 1. The detection of criminal activity, enforcement of laws,
27 or apprehension of offenders; or

28 2. The detection of missing persons, including, but not
29 limited to, persons who are lost; who are trapped under debris

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30 as the result of a natural, manmade, or technological disaster;
31 or who are drowning victims.

32 (c) "Veterinary care" means annual wellness examinations,
33 vaccines, internal and external parasite prevention, testing and
34 treatment for illnesses and diseases, medication, emergency care
35 and surgeries, and euthanasia, if each such service is provided
36 by a licensed veterinarian or a specialist referred by a
37 licensed veterinarian. The term also includes cremation
38 services.

39 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.