

Amendment No. 1

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
ADOPTED AS AMENDED	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
FAILED TO ADOPT	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
WITHDRAWN	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
OTHER	<u> </u>	

1 Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Criminal Justice
2 Subcommittee
3 Representative Kerner offered the following:

Amendment

Remove lines 45-110 and insert:

7 (d) "Veterinary care" means the practice of veterinary
8 medicine as defined in s. 474.202 by a veterinarian. The term
9 includes annual wellness examinations, vaccines, internal and
10 external parasite prevention treatments, testing and treatment
11 of illnesses and diseases, medications, emergency care and
12 surgeries, specialty care such as veterinary oncology,
13 euthanasia, and cremation.

14 (3) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS.—The Legislature finds that:

15 (a) Law enforcement dogs have become an integral part of
16 many law enforcement efforts statewide, including the
17 apprehension of suspects through tracking and searching,

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18 evidence location, drug and bomb detection, and search and
19 rescue operations;

20 (b) Law enforcement agencies agree that the use of law
21 enforcement dogs is an extremely cost-effective means of crime
22 control and that these dogs possess skills and abilities that
23 frequently exceed those of existing technology;

24 (c) The service of law enforcement dogs is often dangerous
25 and can expose them to injury at a rate higher than that of
26 nonservice dogs; and

27 (d) Law enforcement dogs provide significant contributions
28 to the residents of this state.

29 (4) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Care for Retired Law
30 Enforcement Dogs Program is created within the Department of Law
31 Enforcement to provide a stable funding source for veterinary
32 care provided to these dogs.

33 (5) ADMINISTRATION.—The Department of Law Enforcement
34 shall contract with a corporation not for profit organized under
35 chapter 617 to administer and manage the Care for Retired Law
36 Enforcement Dogs Program. Notwithstanding chapter 287, the
37 department shall select a corporation not for profit through a
38 competitive grant award process which:

39 (a) Is dedicated to the protection or care of retired law
40 enforcement dogs;

41 (b) Is exempt from taxation under s. 501(a) of the
42 Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in s.
43 501(c) (3) of that code;

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44 (c) Has maintained such tax-exempt status for at least 5
45 years;

46 (d) Agrees to be subject to review and audit at the
47 discretion of the Auditor General in order to ensure accurate
48 accounting and disbursement of state funds; and

49 (e) Demonstrates the ability to effectively and
50 efficiently disseminate information and to assist former
51 handlers and adopters of retired law enforcement dogs in
52 complying with this section.

53 (6) FUNDING.—

54 (a) The corporation not for profit shall be the disbursing
55 authority for funds appropriated by the Legislature to the
56 department for the Care for Retired Law Enforcement Dogs
57 Program. These funds shall be disbursed to the former handler or
58 adopter of a retired law enforcement dog upon receipt of:

59 1. Valid documentation from the law enforcement agency
60 from which the dog retired which verifies that the dog was in
61 the service of or employed by such agency; and

62 2. A valid invoice from a veterinarian for veterinary care
63 provided in this state to a retired law enforcement dog and
64 documentation establishing payment of the invoice by the former
65 handler or adopter of a retired law enforcement dog.

66 (b) Annual disbursements to a former handler or adopter to
67 reimburse him or her for the cost of veterinary care provided to
68 a retired law enforcement dog may not exceed \$1,500 per dog. A
69 former handler or adopter of a retired law enforcement dog may

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70 not accumulate unused funds from a current year for use in a
71 future year.

72 (c) A former handler or adopter of a retired law
73 enforcement dog who seeks reimbursement for veterinary care
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