

By Senator Powell

30-00929-22

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to use of police canines; creating s.  
3       943.17175, F.S.; prohibiting police canines from being  
4       used to bite suspects during arrest or apprehension;  
5       requiring that law enforcement agencies that use  
6       police canines adopt specified policies; providing  
7       requirements for the use of police canines in  
8       apprehending suspects; requiring the Department of Law  
9       Enforcement to maintain specified data concerning the  
10      use of police canines and to make such data available  
11      in a format meeting specified requirements; providing  
12      an effective date.

13  
14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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16       Section 1. Section 943.17175, Florida Statutes, is created  
17 to read:

18       943.17175 Use of police canines.-

19       (1) A law enforcement officer may not use a police canine  
20 for the purpose of biting a suspect during the arrest or  
21 apprehension of an individual.

22       (2) Law enforcement agencies that use police canines shall  
23 establish policies that require canines only be used to find and  
24 bark or circle and bark at a suspect rather than to bite an  
25 individual.

26       (3) A law enforcement officer must attempt to defuse the  
27 situation, during the course of apprehending a suspect, first  
28 and employ recognized de-escalation techniques before involving  
29 a police canine. The use of a police canine must be

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30 proportionate to the threat presented by the individual.

31 (4) The department shall maintain data on the use of  
32 canines for suspect apprehensions and any canine bites and  
33 injuries caused to individuals by the canines. The department  
34 shall make such data readily available to the public in an  
35 easily accessible format.

36 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.