

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to offenses against certain animals;
 3 amending s. 843.01, F.S.; prohibiting the offering or
 4 doing violence to a police horse or police canine in
 5 certain circumstances; providing criminal penalties;
 6 amending s. 843.19, F.S.; increasing the
 7 classification of specified criminal offenses
 8 committed against police canines, fire canines, SAR
 9 canines, or police horses; providing an effective
 10 date.

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

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 14 Section 1. Section 843.01, Florida Statutes, is amended to
 15 read:

16 843.01 Resisting officer with violence to his or her
 17 person.—Whoever knowingly and willfully resists, obstructs, or
 18 opposes any officer as defined in s. 943.10(1), (2), (3), (6),
 19 (7), (8), or (9); member of the Florida Commission on Offender
 20 Review or any administrative aide or supervisor employed by the
 21 commission; parole and probation supervisor; county probation
 22 officer; personnel or representative of the Department of Law
 23 Enforcement; ~~or~~ other person legally authorized to execute
 24 process in the execution of legal process or in the lawful
 25 execution of any legal duty; or a police canine or police horse

26 | as defined in s. 843.19(1)(a), working at the direction of or in
 27 | tandem with such officer or legally authorized person, by
 28 | offering or doing violence to the person of such officer, ~~or~~
 29 | legally authorized person, or police canine or police horse,
 30 | commits ~~is guilty of~~ a felony of the third degree, punishable as
 31 | provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

32 | Section 2. Subsection (3) of section 843.19, Florida
 33 | Statutes, is amended to read:

34 | 843.19 Offenses against police canines, fire canines, SAR
 35 | canines, or police horses.—

36 | (3) Any person who actually and intentionally maliciously
 37 | touches, strikes, or causes bodily harm to a police canine, fire
 38 | canine, SAR canine, or police horse commits a felony ~~misdemeanor~~
 39 | of the third ~~first~~ degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082,
 40 | ~~or~~ s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

41 | Section 3. This act shall take effect October 1, 2023.