

By Senator Burton

12-01458A-23

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to animals working with law
3 enforcement officers; amending s. 843.01, F.S.;
4 prohibiting the knowing and willful resistance to,
5 obstruction of, or opposition to a police canine or
6 police horse under certain circumstances; providing
7 criminal penalties; making technical changes; amending
8 s. 843.19, F.S.; increasing criminal penalties for
9 persons who actually and intentionally maliciously
10 touch, strike, or cause bodily harm to a police
11 canine, fire canine, SAR canine, or police horse;
12 increasing criminal penalties for persons who
13 intentionally or knowingly maliciously harass, tease,
14 interfere with, or attempt to interfere with a police
15 canine, fire canine, SAR canine, or police horse while
16 the animal is in the performance of its duties;
17 providing an effective date.

18
19 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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21 Section 1. Section 843.01, Florida Statutes, is amended to
22 read:

23 843.01 Resisting officers, other persons, or police animals
24 ~~officer~~ with violence ~~to his or her person.~~ A person who ~~Whoever~~
25 knowingly and willfully resists, obstructs, or opposes any of
26 the following officers, persons, or police animals by offering
27 or doing violence to any such officers, persons, or animals
28 commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in
29 s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084:

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30 (1) An officer as defined in s. 943.10(1), (2), (3), (6),
 31 (7), (8), or (9).~~†~~

32 (2) A member of the Florida Commission on Offender Review
 33 or any administrative aide or supervisor employed by the
 34 commission.~~†~~

35 (3) A parole and probation supervisor.~~†~~

36 (4) A county probation officer.~~†~~

37 (5) Any personnel or representative of the Department of
 38 Law Enforcement.~~†~~~~or~~

39 (6) Any other person legally authorized to execute process
 40 in the execution of legal process or in the lawful execution of
 41 any legal duty.

42 (7) A police canine or police horse as those terms are
 43 defined in s. 843.19 working at the direction of or in tandem
 44 with an officer or a legally authorized person, ~~by offering or~~
 45 ~~doing violence to the person of such officer or legally~~
 46 ~~authorized person, is guilty of a felony of the third degree,~~
 47 ~~punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.~~

48 Section 2. Subsections (3) and (4) of section 843.19,
 49 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

50 843.19 Offenses against police canines, fire canines, SAR
 51 canines, or police horses.-

52 (3) Any person who actually and intentionally maliciously
 53 touches, strikes, or causes bodily harm to a police canine, fire
 54 canine, SAR canine, or police horse commits a felony of the
 55 third misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in
 56 s. 775.082, ~~or~~ s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

57 (4) Any person who intentionally or knowingly maliciously
 58 harasses, teases, interferes with, or attempts to interfere with

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59 a police canine, fire canine, SAR canine, or police horse while
60 the animal is in the performance of its duties commits a
61 misdemeanor of the first ~~second~~ degree, punishable as provided
62 in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

63 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.