



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Raised Bill No. 908

LCO No. 3202

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Referred to Committee on Public Safety and Security

Introduced by:
(PS)

AN ACT CONCERNING OFFENSES AGAINST POLICE CANINES AND VOLUNTEER CANINE SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAMS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2009*) (a) For the purposes of
2 this section:

3 (1) "Police canine" means a dog trained to assist a sworn member of
4 the Division of State Police within the Department of Public Safety or
5 any municipal police department officer in security, control,
6 contraband detecting, tracking and other tasks related to law
7 enforcement;

8 (2) "Canine handler" means a trained municipal or state police
9 officer responsible for a police canine;

10 (3) "Canine team" means a canine handler with an assigned police
11 canine; and

12 (4) "Volunteer canine search and rescue team" means an individual
13 and a dog (A) appropriately trained and certified to engage in search
14 and rescue operations by a nonprofit canine search and rescue

15 organization that is a member of the National Association of Search
16 and Rescue, or its successor organization, and (B) who jointly engage
17 in such operations at the request of a police or fire department and
18 provide services without compensation.

19 (b) Any person who harasses, baits or torments a police canine
20 when such canine is engaged in the performance of its duties under the
21 direct supervision, care and control of a canine handler shall be guilty
22 of a class A misdemeanor.

23 (c) Any person who interferes with a canine team or volunteer
24 canine search and rescue team while such team is engaged in the
25 performance of its duties shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

26 (d) Any person who strikes, fights, chokes or assaults a police
27 canine when such canine is engaged in the performance of its duties
28 under the direct supervision, care and control of a canine handler shall
29 be guilty of a class D felony.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To impose penalties for the harassment or assault of a police canine or the interference with a volunteer canine search and rescue team or canine team.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]