



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 908

January Session, 2009

* _____SB00908PS_JUD031109_____*

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 Sec. 2. Subsection (d) of section 53-247 of the general statutes is
27 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
28 *October 1, 2009*):

29 (d) For the purposes of this subsection, "injures" includes, but is not
30 limited to, striking, choking or otherwise assaulting. Any person who
31 intentionally injures any animal while such animal is in the
32 performance of its duties under the supervision of a peace officer, as
33 defined in section 53a-3, or intentionally injures a dog that is a member
34 of a volunteer canine search and rescue team, as defined in section 5-
35 249, while such dog is in the performance of its duties under the
36 supervision of the active individual member of such team, shall be
37 fined not more than five thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than
38 five years, or both.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	53-247(d)

PS *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R* **JUD**