



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 547

February Session, 2018

Substitute Senate Bill No. 241

Senate, April 17, 2018

The Committee on Judiciary reported through SEN. DOYLE of the 9th Dist. and SEN. KISSEL of the 7th Dist., Chairpersons of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PENALTY FOR THE INTENTIONAL INJURY OR KILLING OF POLICE ANIMALS OR DOGS IN VOLUNTEER CANINE SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAMS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 53-247 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2018*):

3 (a) Any person who overdrives, drives when overloaded,
4 overworks, tortures, deprives of necessary sustenance, mutilates or
5 cruelly beats or kills or unjustifiably injures any animal, or who,
6 having impounded or confined any animal, fails to give such animal
7 proper care or neglects to cage or restrain any such animal from doing
8 injury to itself or to another animal or fails to supply any such animal
9 with wholesome air, food and water, or unjustifiably administers any
10 poisonous or noxious drug or substance to any domestic animal or
11 unjustifiably exposes any such drug or substance, with intent that the
12 same shall be taken by an animal, or causes it to be done, or, having

13 charge or custody of any animal, inflicts cruelty upon it or fails to
14 provide it with proper food, drink or protection from the weather or
15 abandons it or carries it or causes it to be carried in a cruel manner, or
16 fights with or baits, harasses or worries any animal for the purpose of
17 making it perform for amusement, diversion or exhibition, shall, for a
18 first offense, be fined not more than one thousand dollars or
19 imprisoned not more than one year or both, and for each subsequent
20 offense, shall be guilty of a class D felony.

21 (b) Any person who maliciously and intentionally maims, mutilates,
22 tortures, wounds or kills an animal shall, (1) for a first offense, be
23 guilty of a class D felony, and (2) for any subsequent offense, be guilty
24 of a class C felony. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to
25 any licensed veterinarian while following accepted standards of
26 practice of the profession or to any person while following approved
27 methods of slaughter under section 22-272a, while performing medical
28 research as an employee of, student in or person associated with any
29 hospital, educational institution or laboratory, while following
30 generally accepted agricultural practices or while lawfully engaged in
31 the taking of wildlife.

32 (c) Any person who knowingly (1) owns, possesses, keeps or trains
33 an animal engaged in an exhibition of fighting for amusement or gain,
34 (2) possesses, keeps or trains an animal with the intent that it be
35 engaged in an exhibition of fighting for amusement or gain, (3) permits
36 an act described in subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection to take place
37 on premises under his control, (4) acts as judge or spectator at an
38 exhibition of animal fighting for amusement or gain, or (5) bets or
39 wagers on the outcome of an exhibition of animal fighting for
40 amusement or gain, shall be guilty of a class D felony.

41 (d) Any person who intentionally injures or kills any animal while
42 such animal is in the performance of its duties under the supervision
43 of a peace officer, as defined in section 53a-3, or intentionally injures or
44 kills a dog that is a member of a volunteer canine search and rescue
45 team, as defined in section 5-249, while such dog is in the performance

46 of its duties under the supervision of the active individual member of
47 such team, shall be guilty of a class [D] C felony.

48 [(e) Any person who intentionally kills any animal while such
49 animal is in the performance of its duties under the supervision of a
50 peace officer, as defined in section 53a-3, or intentionally kills a dog
51 that is a member of a volunteer canine search and rescue team, as
52 defined in section 5-249, while such dog is in the performance of its
53 duties under the supervision of the active individual member of such
54 team, shall be fined not more than ten thousand dollars or imprisoned
55 not more than ten years, or both.]

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2018	53-247

JUD *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

The bill increases the penalty for intentionally injuring certain animals. While there were seven violations of the offense in FY 17, there were no fines levied for these violations and no persons incarcerated or on probation. Therefore it is anticipated that the bill does not result in a fiscal impact.

The Out Years***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 241*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE PENALTY FOR THE INTENTIONAL INJURY OR KILLING OF POLICE ANIMALS OR DOGS IN VOLUNTEER CANINE SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAMS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill increases the criminal penalty for intentionally injuring (1) an animal performing its duties under a peace officer's supervision or (2) a dog performing its duties as a member of a volunteer canine search and rescue team.

Under current law, intentionally (1) injuring such an animal is a class D felony, punishable by up to five years' imprisonment, a fine of up to \$5,000, or both, and (2) killing such an animal is an unclassified felony punishable by up to 10 years' imprisonment, a fine of up to \$10,000, or both.

The bill instead makes intentionally injuring or killing such an animal a class C felony, punishable by up to 10 years' imprisonment, a fine of up to \$10,000, or both.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2018

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 39 Nay 0 (04/02/2018)