

Judiciary Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-241

AN ACT INCREASING THE PENALTIES FOR THE INTENTIONAL INJURY OR
KILLING OF POLICE ANIMALS OR DOGS IN VOLUNTEER CANINE SEARCH

Title: AND RESCUE TEAMS.

Vote Date: 4/2/2018

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/9/2018

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Representative Fred Camillo
Senator Tony Hwang

REASONS FOR BILL:

To establish as a felony the intentional injury or killing of a police or peace officer canine in the performance of their duties after multiple instances of police animals being purposely killed in the line of duty across the country, including one where a canine officer was mortally stabbed multiple times by a suspect resisting arrest.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

Adds provisions: penalizing purposeful abuse or neglect of any (domestic) animal; detailing the penalization of "malicious or intentional" maiming, mutilation, torture, or wounding of any (domestic) animal and the exceptions thereof; and, regarding the penalties for the knowing exhibition and/or fighting of animals.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

N/A

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Hartford Police Union President John Szewczyk supports S.B. 241 because "K-9 police dogs are always at risk of being seriously wounded or killed in the line of duty... [and] it is

imperative that they have a legal system that provides adequate protection in the event that they are injured or killed.”

Representative Fred Camillo supports S.B. 241 because “it is important to send the message... that attacks on our beloved police canines will be met with stronger penalties.”

Representative Joe Polletta supports S.B. 241 because “K-9s play an intricate and important part of our police forces across the state... [they] do an outstanding job protecting the public and deserve our appreciation and protection.”

Valerie Woodruff supports S.B 241

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Glastonbury Attorney Richard Taff opposes S.B. 14 because “the penalties proposed in this bill are excessive and disproportionate” and “would constitute a doubling of the existing maximum term of imprisonment.”

Reported by: Cassandra L. Hobbs

Date: April 11, 2018