



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

**Committee Bill No. 5362**

LCO No. 4315



\* 0 4 3 1 5 H B 0 5 3 6 2 P S \*

Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Introduced by:  
(PS)

**AN ACT INCREASING THE PENALTY FOR THE INTENTIONAL INJURY OF A POLICE ANIMAL OR DOG IN A VOLUNTEER CANINE SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM.**

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 Section 53-247 of the general statutes is repealed and the  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, 2019*):

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, 2019	53-247

**Statement of Purpose:**

To increase the penalty for intentionally injuring a police animal or dog in a volunteer canine search and rescue 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.]*

Co-Sponsors: REP. POLLETTA, 68th Dist.; SEN. BERTHEL, 32nd Dist.  
REP. CAMILLO, 151st Dist.

H.B. 5362