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**OLR Bill Analysis**

**SB 123**

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

**SUMMARY**

This bill increases the criminal penalty for intentionally injuring a peace officer's animal or a volunteer canine search and rescue team's dog while they are performing their duties under supervision. Specifically, the bill raises the penalty from a class D to a class C felony, which increases the (1) maximum term of imprisonment from five to 10 years and (2) maximum fine from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

The bill also formally classifies the intentional killing of those animals as a class C felony. Under current law, this crime is an unclassified felony with the same maximum imprisonment and fine as a class C felony.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 23 Nay 0 (03/04/2021)