



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

Committee Bill No. 123

LCO No. 2866



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 Section 53-247 of the general statutes is repealed and the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, 2021*):

3 (a) Any person who (1) 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,] (2)
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] (3) unjustifiably administers
10 any 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,] (4) 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 (5) fights with or baits, harasses or worries any animal for the purpose
17 of making it perform for amusement, diversion or exhibition, shall, for
18 a 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 guilty
23 of a class D felony, and (2) for any subsequent offense, be guilty of a
24 class C felony. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any
25 licensed veterinarian while following accepted standards of practice of
26 the profession or to any person while following approved methods of
27 slaughter under section 22-272a, while performing medical research as
28 an employee of, student in or person associated with any hospital,
29 educational institution or laboratory, while following generally
30 accepted agricultural practices or while lawfully engaged in the taking
31 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 engaged
35 in an exhibition of fighting for amusement or gain, (3) permits an act
36 described in subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection to take place on
37 premises under his control, (4) acts as judge or spectator at an exhibition
38 of animal fighting for amusement or gain, or (5) bets or wagers on the
39 outcome of an exhibition of animal fighting for amusement or gain, shall
40 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 of
43 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 animal
49 is in the performance of its duties under the supervision of a peace
50 officer, as defined in section 53a-3, or intentionally kills a dog that is a
51 member of a volunteer canine search and rescue team, as defined in
52 section 5-249, while such dog is in the performance of its duties under
53 the supervision of the active individual member of such team, shall be
54 fined not more than ten thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than
55 ten years, or both.]

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2021	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: SEN. BERTHEL, 32nd Dist.

S.B. 123