



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 217**

February Session, 2024

Senate Bill No. 339

*Senate, April 3, 2024*

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through SEN. GASTON of the 23rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT REQUIRING RESTITUTION WHEN A POLICE ANIMAL OR DOG IN A VOLUNTEER CANINE SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM IS INJURED OR KILLED.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsections (d) and (e) of section 53-247 of the 2024  
2 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is  
3 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

4 (d) Any person who intentionally injures any animal while such  
5 animal is in the performance of its duties under the supervision of a  
6 peace officer, as defined in section 53a-3, or intentionally injures a dog  
7 that is a member of a volunteer canine search and rescue team, as  
8 defined in section 5-249, while such dog is in the performance of its  
9 duties under the supervision of the active individual member of such  
10 team, shall be guilty of a class D felony, and shall be required to pay  
11 restitution to the law enforcement unit, entity or individual that owns  
12 such animal or dog. Such restitution may include, but need not be  
13 limited to, the cost of veterinary services for the injured animal or dog

14 and, if such animal or dog is rendered unable to perform its duties, the  
15 costs and expenses of the purchase and training of a replacement animal  
16 or dog.

17 (e) Any person who intentionally kills any animal while such animal  
18 is in the performance of its duties under the supervision of a peace  
19 officer, as defined in section 53a-3, or intentionally kills a dog that is a  
20 member of a volunteer canine search and rescue team, as defined in  
21 section 5-249, while such dog is in the performance of its duties under  
22 the supervision of the active individual member of such team, shall be  
23 fined not more than ten thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than  
24 ten years, or both, and shall be required to pay restitution to the law  
25 enforcement unit, entity or individual that owned such animal or dog.  
26 Such restitution may include, but need not be limited to, the costs and  
27 expenses of the purchase and training of a replacement animal or dog.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2024	53-247(d) and (e)

**PS**      *Joint Favorable*

*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:**

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Effect</b>	<b>FY 25 \$</b>	<b>FY 26 \$</b>
Various State Agencies	Various - Potential Savings	See Below	See Below

Note: Various=Various

**Municipal Impact:**

<b>Municipalities</b>	<b>Effect</b>	<b>FY 25 \$</b>	<b>FY 26 \$</b>
Various Municipal Police Departments	Potential Savings	See Below	See Below

**Explanation**

The bill requires anyone convicted of intentionally injuring or killing a peace officer's animal to pay restitution to the animal's owner, resulting in potential savings to various state agencies and municipal police departments, in the event that these departments receive restitution payments covering the cost of veterinary services or purchasing and training a replacement.

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of incidents requiring restitution.

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**OLR Bill Analysis****SB 339*****AN ACT REQUIRING RESTITUTION WHEN A POLICE ANIMAL OR DOG IN A VOLUNTEER CANINE SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM IS INJURED OR KILLED.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires anyone convicted of intentionally injuring or killing a peace officer's animal or a volunteer canine search and rescue team's dog to pay restitution to the animal's owner. As under existing law, which already imposes other penalties for these actions, the animal or dog must have been injured or killed while performing its duties under the supervision of a peace officer or an active search and rescue team member.

In addition to any fine or imprisonment imposed under existing law, the bill requires restitution to be paid to the law enforcement unit, entity, or individual that owns the animal or dog. The restitution may include the cost of veterinary services and, if the animal or dog is killed or rendered unable to perform its duties, the costs and expenses of purchasing and training a replacement.

By law, intentionally injuring a peace officer's animal or a volunteer canine search and rescue team's dog is a class D felony (punishable by up to five years imprisonment, up to a \$5,000 fine, or both) and intentionally killing these animals is punishable by up to 10 years imprisonment, up to a \$10,000 fine, or both.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2024

**BACKGROUND*****Peace Officers***

By law, the following individuals are designated peace officers: state and local police, Division of Criminal Justice inspectors, state marshals exercising statutory powers, judicial marshals performing their duties, conservation or special conservation officers, constables who perform criminal law enforcement duties, appointed special policemen, adult probation officers, Department of Correction officials authorized to make arrests in a correctional institution or facility, investigators in the State Treasurer’s Office, certified Department of Motor Vehicles inspectors, U.S. marshals and deputy marshals, U.S. special agents authorized to enforce federal food and drug laws, and certified police officers of a law enforcement unit created and governed under a state-tribal memorandum (CGS § 53a-3(9)).

***Related Bill***

SB 427, favorably reported by the Judiciary Committee, among other things, increases the penalty for intentionally injuring a police animal or dog in a volunteer canine search and rescue team; establishes a penalty for harassing police animals in a motor vehicle; and allows certain emergency medical personnel to treat and transport injured police animals.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 25    Nay 0    (03/19/2024)