

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 24-65—SB 339

Public Safety and Security Committee

Judiciary Committee

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

SUMMARY: This act 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 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 act requires restitution to be paid to the law enforcement unit, entity, or individual that owns the animal. The restitution may include the cost of veterinary services and, if the animal 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 (see [Table on Penalties](#)) 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 police officers, 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)).