
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)