

SENATE BILL 238

E4

6lr0532
CF 6lr0585

By: **Senator Simonaire**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2016

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety – Law Enforcement Dogs – Protective Equipment**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a law enforcement agency that uses a certain licensed dog to
4 make available certain protective equipment for use on the dog under certain
5 circumstances; providing that the determination whether to have a certain dog use
6 certain equipment under certain circumstances shall be made by the law
7 enforcement agency or the dog's handler; authorizing the Department of State Police
8 to adopt certain regulations; requiring the Department to monitor compliance under
9 this Act and, on or before a certain date each year, make a certain report to the
10 General Assembly; providing the intent of the General Assembly for compliance with
11 this Act on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of a certain
12 provision of this Act; and generally relating to law enforcement dogs.

13 BY adding to

14 Article – Public Safety

15 Section 3–514

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2011 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
19 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article – Public Safety**

21 **3–514.**

22 **(A) A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY THAT USES A DOG LICENSED BY THE**
23 **DEPARTMENT UNDER § 2–313 OF THIS ARTICLE SHALL MAKE AVAILABLE A**
24 **PROTECTIVE VEST OR BODY ARMOR FOR USE ON THE DOG IF:**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(1) THE DOG IS ON DUTY AND OPERATING IN A PHYSICALLY**
2 **THREATENING ENVIRONMENT; AND**

3 **(2) WEARING THE PROTECTIVE VEST OR BODY ARMOR WOULD**
4 **REDUCE THE RISK OF SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.**

5 **(B) THE DETERMINATION WHETHER TO HAVE A DOG WEAR A PROTECTIVE**
6 **VEST OR BODY ARMOR UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE MADE BY**
7 **THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OR THE DOG'S HANDLER.**

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

9 (a) The Department of State Police may adopt regulations to carry out the
10 provisions of this Act.

11 (b) The Department shall monitor compliance with this Act and, on or before
12 January 1 of each year, report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the
13 State Government Article, on, with regard to each law enforcement agency subject to this
14 Act:

15 (1) the total number of dogs licensed by the Department in use by the law
16 enforcement agency;

17 (2) the total number of protective vests or body armor needed by the law
18 enforcement agency to comply with this Act; and

19 (3) the current number of protective vests or body armor on hand at the
20 law enforcement agency.

21 (c) It is the intent of the General Assembly that each law enforcement agency
22 subject to this Act shall be in full compliance with the requirements of this Act on or before
23 January 1, 2018.

24 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
25 October 1, 2016. Section 2 of this Act shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at
26 the end of September 30, 2019, with no further action required by the General Assembly,
27 Section 2 of this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.