

State of Maryland
Department of State Police
Government Affairs Unit
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POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

injured in a vehicle collision caused by an impaired driver and was later humanely euthanized due to non-recoverable injuries.

These incidents highlight the real and ongoing risks law enforcement service animals face in the line of duty. MSP K-9s and other emergency response animals are often deployed first into dangerous and unpredictable situations, whether assisting with fire investigations, tracking suspects, or locating missing persons. These animals face many of the same dangers as the officers they accompany and deserve comparable legal protections. Enhancing penalties for those who harm or obstruct them will help deter misconduct, promote respect for public safety operations, and ensure these invaluable partners can continue to serve and protect Maryland's citizens safely and effectively.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of State Police urge the Committee to give House Bill 563 a favorable report.