
By: Delegates Poole, Donoghue, and McKee

Introduced and read first time: February 17, 1997

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Police Dogs - Liability for Harm**

3 FOR the purpose of making a person liable for the purchase, care, and training costs of
4 a replacement police dog if the person, while in the act of committing a crime for
5 which the person is later convicted, kills, maims, or otherwise harms a police dog
6 used by a law enforcement agency so as to force the police dog out of service;
7 defining certain terms; and generally relating to liability for harm to police dogs.

8 BY adding to

9 Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments
10 Section 59B
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (1996 Replacement Volume)

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

15 **Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments**

16 59B.

17 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
18 INDICATED.

19 (2) "LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY" MEANS A GOVERNMENTAL POLICE
20 FORCE, SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, SECURITY FORCE, OR OTHER AGENCY OF THE
21 STATE OR A COUNTY, MUNICIPALITY, OR OTHER POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE
22 STATE.

23 (3) "POLICE DOG" MEANS A DOG THAT IS REGISTERED WITH AND USED
24 BY A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY IN THE PERFORMANCE OF ITS OFFICIAL DUTIES.

25 (B) A PERSON WHO, WHILE IN THE ACT OF COMMITTING A CRIME FOR WHICH
26 THE PERSON IS LATER CONVICTED, KILLS, MAIMS, OR OTHERWISE HARMS A POLICE
27 DOG USED BY A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY SO AS TO FORCE THE POLICE DOG
28 OUT OF SERVICE IS LIABLE FOR THE PURCHASE, CARE, AND TRAINING COSTS OF A
29 REPLACEMENT POLICE DOG.

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1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 October 1, 1997.