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By: **Delegate Poole**  
Introduced and read first time: February 23, 1998  
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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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  
4 of a replacement police dog if the person, while in the act of committing a crime  
5 for which the person is later convicted, kills, maims, or otherwise harms a police  
6 dog 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 and 1997 Supplement)

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 OUT

1 OF SERVICE IS LIABLE FOR THE PURCHASE, CARE, AND TRAINING COSTS OF A  
2 REPLACEMENT POLICE DOG.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
4 October 1, 1998.