

## Senate Bill No. 1020

An act relating to police dogs, fire dogs, SAR dogs, and police horses; amending s. 843.19, F.S.; prohibiting intentionally and knowingly, without justification, causing great bodily harm to or using a deadly weapon upon a police dog, fire dog, SAR dog, or police horse; prohibiting actually and intentionally maliciously touching, striking, or causing bodily harm to a police dog, fire dog, SAR dog, or police horse; prohibiting maliciously harassing, teasing, interfering with, or attempting to interfere with a police dog, fire dog, SAR dog, or police horse while the animal is in the performance of its duties; providing penalties; providing for restitution from violators; providing application; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 843.19, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

843.19 ~~Offenses against Injuring or killing police dogs dog, fire dogs dog, SAR dogs dog, or police horses horse prohibited; penalty.—~~

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) “Police dog” means any dog, and “police horse” means any horse, that is owned, or the service of which is employed, by a law enforcement agency for the principal purpose of aiding in the detection of criminal activity, enforcement of laws, or apprehension of offenders.

(b) “Fire dog” means any dog that is owned, or the service of which is employed, by a fire department, a special fire district, or the State Fire Marshal for the principal purpose of aiding in the detection of flammable materials or the investigation of fires.

(c) “SAR dog” means any search and rescue dog that is owned, or the service of which is utilized, by a fire department, a law enforcement agency, a special fire district, or the State Fire Marshal for the principal purpose of aiding in the detection of missing persons, including, but not limited to, persons who are lost, who are trapped under debris as the result of a natural, manmade, or technological disaster, or who are drowning victims.

(2) Any person who intentionally and knowingly, and willfully and without lawful cause or justification, causes inflicts great bodily harm, permanent disability, or death to, or uses a deadly weapon upon, a police dog, fire dog, SAR dog, or police horse commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(3) Any person who actually and intentionally maliciously touches, strikes, or causes bodily harm to a police dog, fire dog, SAR dog, or police horse commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(4) Any person who intentionally or knowingly maliciously harasses, teases, interferes with, or attempts to interfere with a police dog, fire dog, SAR dog, or police horse while the animal is in the performance of its duties commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(5) A person convicted of an offense under this section shall make restitution for injuries caused to the police dog, fire dog, SAR dog, or police horse and shall pay the replacement cost of the animal if, as a result of the offense, the animal can no longer perform its duties.

Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2005, and shall apply to offenses occurring on or after that date.

Approved by the Governor June 3, 2005.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 3, 2005.