

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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SB-932

AN ACT CONCERNING POLICE ANIMALS AND DOGS IN
VOLUNTEER CANINE SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAMS.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Judicial Dept. (Probation); Correction, Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Cost	75,000	None
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	GF - Cost	81,000 - 135,000	Potential

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill establishes new policies and makes several changes to statutes affecting police animals and canine units, resulting in the various impacts to the state agencies described below.

Section 1 changes the charge for injuring an animal performing duties in conjunction with a peace officer from a Class D felony to a Class C charge, and it also clarifies that this applies to an intentional killing of an animal performing duties in conjunction with a peace officer. These changes may result in a potential cost to the Department of Correction and Judicial Department and a potential revenue gain from fines. On average, the marginal cost to the state for incarcerating

an offender for the year is \$2,500¹ while the average marginal cost for supervision in the community is less than \$800² each year.

Section 2 requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to adopt regulations on: (1) training of emergency services personnel in basic level first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and life-saving interventions for certain animals; (2) safe handling procedures for certain animals; (3) identification of veterinary facilities that provide emergency treatment; and (4) decontamination and sterilization requirements for equipment and vehicles after transport of certain animals, resulting in a consultant cost of up to \$75,000 in FY 24.

This section also allows emergency medical services personnel to provide emergency treatment to injured police animals, resulting in no fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

Section 3 makes conforming changes, resulting in no fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

Section 4 requires the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to administer a grant program that provides canine body armor to law enforcement canine units. Such body armor can range from \$900 to \$1,500 per set and there are approximately 45 police canine units in the state. If each unit were to receive an average of two sets of armor under this grant program, the resulting cost to DESPP could range from \$81,000 to \$135,000. There is a potential cost in FY 25 to the extent that municipalities continue to apply for grants as needed.³

¹ Inmate marginal cost is based on increased consumables (e.g. food, clothing, water, sewage, living supplies, etc.) This does not include a change in staffing costs or utility expenses because these would only be realized if a unit or facility opened.

² Probation marginal cost is based on services provided by private providers and only includes costs that increase with each additional participant. This does not include a cost for additional supervision by a probation officer unless a new offense is anticipated to result in enough additional offenders to require additional probation officers.

³ Some law enforcement units only have one to two canines and are not expected to require replacement sets of armor for another five to ten years. Units with more than two canines may require more than two sets of armor.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact to the Department of Correction and Judicial Department identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of individuals incarcerated and fines imposed.

The demand to receive body armor grants is expected to decline after the first year of the program resulting in diminished costs to DESPP in the out years. The cost identified above to DPH is only in FY 24.