

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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SB-427

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

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Cost	100,000	None
Judicial Dept. (Probation); Correction, Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	Minimal	Minimal
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	Minimal	Minimal
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Various Municipal Police Departments	Potential Savings	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The bill establishes new policies and makes several changes to statutes affecting police animals and canine units, resulting in the following impacts.

Section 1 expands the penalty for killing certain working animals to a class C felony and makes it a class D misdemeanor to tease or torment certain working animals that are confined in a vehicle. This results in a potential cost to the Department of Correction and the Judicial Department for incarceration or probation and a potential revenue gain to the General Fund from fines. On average, the marginal cost to the

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state for incarcerating an offender for the year is \$3,300¹ while the average marginal cost for supervision in the community is less than \$800² each year for adults and \$1,000 each year for juveniles. Few violations are anticipated.³

Section 2 is anticipated to result in a consultant cost of up to \$100,000 in FY 25 to the Department of Public Health as it requires the department to adopt regulations on: (1) training of EMS personnel in basic level first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, safe handling procedures, and life-saving interventions for certain animals; (2) identification of veterinary facilities that provide emergency treatment; and (3) decontamination and sterilization requirements for equipment and vehicles after animal transport.

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 to provide canine body armor to law enforcement canine units, resulting in a potential cost to the General Fund and potential savings to various municipal police departments beginning in FY 25, to the extent that grants are awarded.⁴ These potential costs are contingent upon funding being made available for the grant program.⁵

¹Inmate 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.

²Probation 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.

³Since FY 14, 21 similar charges have been recorded.

⁴Such body armor can range from \$900 to \$1,500 per set and there are approximately 60 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 the state (and cumulative savings to municipal police departments) could range from \$108,000 to \$180,000.

⁵The bill does not allocate funds from any source. Historically, DESPP has received funds for similar programs from a variety of sources including appropriations, bond

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 actual number of violations.

The potential impacts identified in section 4 will continue—but are expected to decrease—in the out years to the extent that municipalities continue to apply for grants as replacement sets are needed.⁶

authorizations, and federal funds (including ARPA). If DESPP receives state funding, it is assumed to be a General Fund appropriation or bond authorization.

⁶Some 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 canines may require replacement sets more frequently.