

**Public Safety and Security Committee**  
**JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT**

**Bill No.:** HB-5176

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE PROVISION OF EMERGENCY TREATMENT AND TRANSPORTATION TO AN ANIMAL THAT IS INJURED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF ITS DUTIES UNDER THE

**Title:** SUPERVISION OF A PEACE OFFICER.

**Vote Date:** 3/1/2024

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 2/20/2024

**File No.:**

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

**SPONSORS OF BILL:**

**Sen. Paul Cicarella, 34th Dist.**

**Rep. Greg S. Howard, 43rd Dist.**

**Rep. Craig C. Fishbein, 90th Dist.**

**Rep. David Michel, 146th Dist.**

**Rep. Tony J Scott, 112th Dist.**

**Rep. Travis Simms, 140th Dist.**

**Rep. Ben McGorty, 122nd Dist.**

**REASONS FOR BILL:**

Law Enforcement has seen a number of K9s injured in the line of duty. At this point in time, EMS and Emergency Medical Personnel are unable to treat or transport these K9s with medical care in an emergency vehicle. This bill looks to rectify that, by assembling a taskforce to study the implications of allowing the treatment and transport of injured animal personnel in an emergency vehicle.

With this taskforce in place, adequate data can be collected to push further on this allowance or disallowance. This could lead to a rise in K9 recovery periods if care is administered quicker than without this allowance and may take the burden off of law enforcement to personally transport their partners to emergency care. These recovery periods are costly to state and local law enforcement especially if it results in the death of the injured animal. This may be a way to lower that risk, save funds, and in some cases save that animals life.

**RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

**None Expressed.**

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Gregory Allard, President, Association of Connecticut Ambulance Providers,**

**Supports:**

Supports the creation of a taskforce but urges the inclusion of a representative from the CT EMS Advisory Board, a representative from the CT EMS Advisory Board's Medical Advisory Committee, a representative from the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Office of Emergency Medical Services, and a representative from the Association of CT Ambulance Providers should be appointed. Concerns around EMS provider safety, both medical and physical, unfunded mandates such as additional training and equipment, additional insurance needs are points we feel need to be addressed.

**Benjamin Zura, EMT/ Director of Innovation and Strategy at Emergency Resource**

**Management, Supports:**

Urges the inclusion of three advisory bodies with expertise relevant to the work of the proposed task force: The Connecticut EMS Advisory Board (CEMSAB), the Connecticut EMS Medical Advisory Committee (CEMSMAC), and the state's Trauma Committee.

**Marie Cetti, Bpt K9 Police Officer Ccl 4, Ccl 4 Bpt Police Local, Supports:**

Sites the importance to allow for ambulance transportation of a police dog. Police K9s put their lives on the line for their human partner and save the lives of officers by giving up their own. This bill would put legislation in place to protect Police K9s from the same offenders that try to intentionally harm police personnel.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**None Expressed.**

**Reported by: Casey Urso (Assistant Clerk)**

**Date: March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024**