



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Bethany Boyd

H.B. 447*

131st General Assembly
(As Reported by H. State Government)

Reps. Schuring and Slesnick

BILL SUMMARY

- Prohibits a person from purposely causing the death of a police dog in the line of duty, by use of force.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Intentionally killing a police dog in the line of duty

The bill prohibits a person from purposely causing the death of a police dog by use of force when the police dog is assisting a law enforcement officer in the performance of the officer's official duties. The bill only applies to an offender who knows or should know at the time of the violation that the dog that is the subject of the violation is a police dog.¹ Under continuing law, "force" means any violence, compulsion, or constraint physically exerted by any means upon or against the dog.²

Whoever violates this law is guilty of intentionally killing a police dog in the line of duty, a first degree felony.³ Under continuing law, the maximum penalty for a first degree felony is a prison term of 11 years and a fine of not more than \$20,000.⁴ Whoever violates this law also is responsible for paying all of the following:

* This analysis was prepared before the report of the House State Government Committee appeared in the House Journal. Note that the list of co-sponsors and the legislative history may be incomplete.

¹ R.C. 2921.321(B) and (H).

² R.C. 2901.01, not in the bill.

³ R.C. 2921.321(F)(2).

⁴ R.C. 2929.14 and 2929.18, not in the bill.

- ◆ Any veterinary bill or bill for medication incurred as a result of the violation;
- ◆ The cost of any damaged equipment that results from the violation; and
- ◆ The cost of replacing the police dog and of any further training of a new police dog by a law enforcement officer, which replacement or training is required because of the dog's death.⁵

Under continuing law, a "police dog" is a dog that has been trained, and may be used, to assist law enforcement officers in the performance of their official duties.⁶

HISTORY

| ACTION | DATE |
|--|-----------------|
| Introduced Reported, H. State Gov't | 02-09-16 --- |

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⁵ R.C. 2921.321(F)(6).

⁶ R.C. 2921.321(I).

