

House Research Act Summary

CHAPTER: 9

SESSION: 2011 Regular Session

TOPIC: Public Safety Dogs

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Analyst: Jeff Diebel

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Overview

This chapter increases the penalties for harming public safety dogs and imposes mandatory restitution on offenders who harm public safety dogs.

Section

1 Killing or harming public safety dog.

Subd. 1. Felony. Extends the current 2-year felony for killing a public safety dog to the offense of causing great or substantial bodily harm to a public safety dog.

Subd. 2. Gross misdemeanor; mandatory restitution. Extends the gross misdemeanor offense of harming a public safety dog to cases where the dog suffers demonstrable bodily harm.

Subd. 2a. Misdemeanor. Creates a new misdemeanor offense for assaulting a public safety dog where the dog does not suffer any form of demonstrable bodily harm.

Subd. 2b. Mandatory restitution. Requires a court to sentence an offender to mandatory restitution. The restitution may be used to cover the costs and expenses resulting from the crime, including the care and treatment of the injured dog and the purchase and training of a replacement dog.

Effective date. August 1, 2011.