

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Search and rescue dogs

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Overview

This bill provides criminal penalties for persons who kill or harm a search and rescue dog when the dog is engaged in search and rescue duties or under the custody and control of a trained handler.

1 **Killing or harming a public safety dog.**

Subd. 1. Felony. Makes it a felony to cause, intentionally and without justification, the death of a search and rescue dog that is involved in search and rescue duties or is under the custody or control of a trained handler. Current law makes it a felony to commit the same act against a police dog or arson dog.

Subd. 2. Gross misdemeanor. Makes it a gross misdemeanor to cause, intentionally and without justification, substantial or great bodily harm to a search and rescue dog that is involved in search and rescue duties or is under the custody or control of a trained handler. Current law makes it a gross misdemeanor to commit the same act against a police dog or arson dog.

Subd. 3. Definitions. Defines "search and rescue dog" to mean a dog that is trained to locate lost or missing persons, victims of natural or man-made disasters, and human bodies. Also relocates definitions in the current law to this subdivision.

2 **Effective date.** August 1, 1999, for crimes committed on or after that date.