

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill 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; mandatory restitution.

Para. (a). Extends the current 2-year felony for killing a public safety dog to the offense of causing great bodily harm to a public safety dog. "Great bodily harm" is defined as **bodily** injury which creates a high probability of death, or which causes serious permanent disfigurement, or which causes a permanent or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any **bodily** member or organ or other serious **bodily** harm.

Para. (b). Requires a court to sentence an offender to mandatory restitution of up to \$25,000. 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.

Subd. 2. Gross misdemeanor; mandatory restitution.

Para. (a). Extends the gross misdemeanor offense of harming a public safety dog to cases where the dog suffers demonstrable bodily harm. "Demonstrable bodily harm" is harm that can be perceived by someone other than the victim.

Para. (b). Requires a court to sentence an offender to mandatory restitution of up to \$10,000. 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.

Subd. 3. Misdemeanor. Creates a new misdemeanor offense for assaulting a public safety dog where the dog does not suffer demonstrable bodily harm.