

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 506 **DATE:** March 11, 2011
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Subject: Mounted and Unmounted Reserve Peace Officers
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Overview

This bill establishes new and expands existing legal protections to reserve law enforcement officers and horses operated by reserve officers.

- 1** **Fourth-degree assault.** Establishes a gross misdemeanor penalty for assaulting a law enforcement reserve officer while the reserve officer is performing official duties.
- 2** **Assaulting or harming a police horse.** Adds law enforcement reserve officers and their horses to the statute that creates criminal penalties for assaulting police horses. The new language would punish those who assault a reserve officer's horse at the same level as would apply to an assault on a police horse. The penalties range from a gross misdemeanor to a five-year felony based on the level of harm caused to the horse and whether a peace officer, reserve officer, or another person is injured in the assault.
- 3** **Reserve officer.** Clarifies the definition of "reserve officer" so that it specifically includes "reserve deputies, special deputies, mounted and unmounted patrols, and all other employees or volunteers performing reserve officer functions."