

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 141  
**Version:** As introduced

**DATE:** January 26, 2011

**Authors:** Cornish

**Subject:** Public Safety Dogs

**Analyst:** Jeff Diebel

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: [www.house.mn/hrd](http://www.house.mn/hrd).

### 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 \$15,000. 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 \$5,000. 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.