

Subject State Service Dogs

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Overview

This bill would establish a program to reimburse veterinary care costs incurred by the owner of a retired state service dog. State agencies that employ service dogs (e.g., the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Corrections, etc.) would contribute \$1,000 per active state service dog, per year, to a dedicated account. Money that has accumulated in the account would be available to reimburse the animal's owner once the dog's state service has ended.

Summary

Section	Description
1	Retired state service dog veterinary care. Establishes the reimbursement program, defines key terms, creates a dedicated account in the state treasury, requires state agencies that employ service dogs to contribute \$1,000/animal/year, and appropriates money in the account to the Department of Administration. The Department of Administration would accept applications and reimburse owners for eligible veterinary care costs incurred, with a cap of \$1,500 in reimbursements per animal each year.
2	Effective date. Specifies that the act is effective July 1, 2020, and applies only to dogs that begin state service on or after that date.