

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 4643

To amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit harming animals used in law enforcement, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 21, 2026

Mrs. MOODY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit harming animals used in law enforcement, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “LEO K9 Protection
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. HARMING ANIMALS USED IN LAW ENFORCEMENT.**

7 Section 1368 of title 18, United States Code, is
8 amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the fol-
9 lowing:

1 “(b) Whoever, in the commission of any act described
2 in subsection (a), uses a deadly or dangerous weapon (in-
3 cluding a weapon intended to cause death or danger but
4 that fails to do so by reason of a defective component),
5 shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than
6 15 years, or both.

7 “(c) In this section, the term ‘police animal’ means
8 a dog or horse in the service of a Federal agency (whether
9 in the executive, legislative, or judicial branch), or in the
10 service of a State, county, or local agency that is assisting
11 a Federal agency—

12 “(1) for the principal purpose of aiding in the
13 detection of criminal activity, enforcement of laws,
14 or the apprehension of criminal offenders, the detec-
15 tion of flammable materials, the investigation of
16 fires, the detection of missing persons (including
17 persons who are lost, who are trapped under debris
18 as the result of a natural, manmade, or technological
19 disaster, or who are drowning victims); or

20 “(2) used in any official military capacity by
21 the Department of Defense.

22 “(d) This section does not apply to a person who acts
23 in good faith to provide emergency veterinary care to an
24 injured police animal.”.

1 **SEC. 3. MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION FOR POLICE DOGS IN-**
2 **JURED IN OFFICIAL DUTY.**

3 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment
4 of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation, acting
5 through the Office of Emergency Medical Services Initia-
6 tives at the National Highway Transportation Safety Ad-
7 ministration, shall publish guidance for emergency medical
8 services personnel in order to care for police dogs injured
9 while such police dog is engaged in official duties of the
10 dog. The Secretary shall develop such guidance using ex-
11 isting Federal guidelines of the Department of Homeland
12 Security, the Department of Defense, the Canine Tactical
13 Combat Casualty Care Guidelines, and other resources al-
14 ready available at Federal agencies. The Secretary may
15 consult accredited veterinarians, as necessary, in devel-
16 oping the guidance under this section.

17 **SEC. 4. REGULATIONS FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANS-**
18 **PORTATION SERVICES.**

19 Not later than 240 days after the date of enactment
20 of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall promul-
21 gate regulations to ensure that—

22 (1) a police dog injured while such police dog
23 is engaged in official duties of the dog may be trans-
24 ported to a veterinary clinic or similar facility if
25 there is no individual requiring medical attention or
26 transport at that time; and

1 (2) a paramedic or an emergency medical tech-
2 nician may provide emergency medical care to a po-
3 lice dog while such police dog is engaged in official
4 duties of the dog while at the scene of the emer-
5 gency or while the police dog is being transported to
6 a veterinary clinic or similar facility.

7 **SEC. 5. DEFINITION.**

8 In this Act, the term “police dog” means a police ani-
9 mal (as such term is defined in section 1368 of title 18,
10 United States Code) that is a dog, and includes a similar
11 dog working in the service of a State, county, or local
12 agency.

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