



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number: S. 0006 Introduced on January 10, 2017
Author: Bryant
Subject: Police Dogs and Horses
Requestor: Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources
RFA Analyst(s): Jolliff
Impact Date: February 9, 2017

Estimate of Fiscal Impact

	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19
State Expenditure		
General Fund	Undetermined	\$0
Other and Federal	Undetermined	\$0
Full-Time Equivalent Position(s)	0.00	0.00
State Revenue		
General Fund	Undetermined	\$0
Other and Federal	Undetermined	\$0
Local Expenditure	Undetermined	\$0
Local Revenue	Undetermined	\$0

Fiscal Impact Summary

Data regarding the prevalence of severe injuries to police dogs or horses is not readily available. Therefore, the expenditure and revenue impact of the bill on the General Fund, Federal Funds, Other Funds, and local governments is undetermined.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 10, 2017

State Expenditure

This bill amends the current penalties for mistreatment of police dogs or horses. The current statute provides for varying penalties associated with harming a police dog or horse depending upon the severity of the action. The bill changes the penalties for a person convicted of torturing, injuring, or killing a police dog or horse by increasing the maximum fine from \$5,000 to \$10,000, the maximum prison sentence from five to ten years, and by allowing punishment by either a fine or imprisonment, or both. The bill also requires that the individual pay restitution to the appropriate law enforcement agency to restore or replace the animal, and they may be required to complete up to 500 hours of community service. These changes may affect the number of persons confined in state prisons due to the length of their imprisonment.

State Law Enforcement Division does not maintain statistics regarding the prevalence of crimes committed against police dogs or horses. The national Officer Down Memorial Page for K-9 officers reports one known case of a police dog killed in the line of duty in South Carolina during 2016. The bill may serve as a deterrent and result in a decrease in the number of crimes committed. However, data regarding the prevalence of severe injuries to police dogs or horses is

not readily available. Therefore, the expenditure impact of the bill on the General Fund, Federal Funds, and Other Funds is undetermined.

State Revenue

Revenue generated by the general sessions court from fines, assessments, and surcharges imposed on persons convicted of torturing, injuring, or killing a police dog or horse would be distributed to the General Fund, specified state agencies and programs, and local government in accordance with existing law. Because data is not maintained regarding convictions or sums collected pursuant to the existing statutory provisions, any change in state revenue as a result of this bill is undetermined.

Local Expenditure

The bill requires a person convicted of torturing, injuring, or killing a police dog or horse to pay the appropriate law enforcing agency the full cost of restoring or replacing the animal. K-9 police units are used by many police departments in South Carolina, but we were not able to determine a single entity that tracks the number of police dogs used in the state. Based upon published data from a sample of police departments, the Richland County Sheriff's Department reports 16 K-9 teams, Charleston Police Department reports 3 K-9 teams, and the Greenville Police Department reports 4 K-9 teams. The State Law Enforcement Division maintains a K-9 unit for explosives detection.

National reports from the National Police Dog Foundation and Police Magazine of the average cost of a police dog range from \$3,000 to \$8,000. Many police dogs are imported from Europe, which adds to the cost of the dog. Additionally, the cost of training varies depending upon the type of training the dog receives including patrol, narcotics, explosives, or some combination of those. Reported training costs range from \$8,000 to \$22,000 at various training levels. In total, the cost to replace a trained police dog may range from \$11,000 to \$30,000.

Few mounted police units exist in South Carolina. We were not able to determine a single entity that tracks the number of police horses. Based upon a sample of readily available information, the Richland County Sheriff's Department's website reports that the department has four mounted police units. The Post and Courier reported that Charleston discontinued its mounted police units in 2011 as a result of budget cuts. York County Sheriff's Office maintains a mounted patrol unit of four police horses that are leased to the department by individual owners. Under the lease agreement, they are liable for \$5,000 should the animal be killed on duty.

Based upon these figures, the impact on local law enforcement agencies to restore or replace the police dog or horse would range from approximately \$5,000 to \$30,000. The expenditure impact on local government is dependent upon the cost to restore or replace a specific animal and the actual amount of restitution the law enforcement agency receives. Because no data exists from which to project these variables, the expenditure impact on local government is undetermined.

Local Revenue

Revenue generated by the general sessions court from fines, assessments, and surcharges imposed on persons convicted of torturing, injuring, or killing a police dog or horse would be distributed to the General Fund, specified state agencies and programs, and local government in

accordance with existing law. Because data is not maintained regarding convictions or sums collected pursuant to the existing statutory provisions, any change in local revenue as a result of this bill is undetermined.



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director