

## Public Safety and Security Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-6964

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE PROVISION OF EMERGENCY TREATMENT AND TRANSPORTATION TO AN ANIMAL THAT IS INJURED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF ITS DUTIES UNDER THE

**Title:** SUPERVISION OF A PEACE OFFICER.

**Vote Date:** 3/18/2025

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 2/18/2025

**File No.:**

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

### SPONSORS OF BILL:

[Rep. Tony J. Scott, 112th Dist.](#)

[Sen. Paul Cicarella, 34th Dist.](#)

[Rep. Jill Barry, 31st Dist.](#)

### REASONS FOR BILL:

The proposed bill establishes a task force that will study the provision of Emergency Medical Services and Transportation to animals that are injured in the line of duty during their service under the supervision of peace officers. The bill addresses a need for the provision of rapid medical services to animals serving in the line of duty, particularly K9 units. These services would help to save the lives of these units and maintain their quality of life following the events of an emergency.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Expressed

### NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Renee DiNino, Director of Community Affairs, WFSB](#)

Mrs. DiNino supports the bill and describes a story where a K9 officer was shot and killed in the line of duty and may have been saved had emergency transport been an option in this case. She notes that K9 officers should be treated the same way as human officers when

hurt in the line of duty. DiNino expresses that data and interviews demonstrate the importance K9 officers in de-escalation and injury prevention.

**Stacey Ober, Government Relations Regional Manager, American Kennel Club**

Mrs. Ober supports the bill and believes that K9 units contribute greatly to national security and protecting the peace. She supports the expansion of research to ensure that high-quality dogs are readily available, and that specialized care is provided to them. Ober notes that neighboring states have already enacted laws authorizing the provision of emergency treatment for K9 units.

**The following members of the public issued comments of general support:**

[Laura Pagano](#)

[Deb Romano](#)

[Carol Phelps](#)

[Karen Scotti](#)

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None Expressed

**Reported by: Jack Stein**

**Date: 3/27/25**