

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1344 Session of 2025

INTRODUCED BY ARMANINI, JAMES, SMITH, M. MACKENZIE, GILLEN, SCHEUREN, MENTZER, MIHALEK, RIGBY, KAUFFMAN, GAYDOS, FEE AND CIRESI, APRIL 30, 2025

AS RE-REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, MARCH 23, 2026

AN ACT

1 Amending ~~Title~~ TITLES 18 (CRIMES AND OFFENSES) AND 53 <--
2 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
3 Statutes, IN RIOT, DISORDERLY CONDUCT AND RELATED OFFENSES, <--
4 FURTHER PROVIDING FOR DEFINITIONS; AND, in employees, further
5 providing for canine training standards for police officers.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 ~~Section 1. Section 2172(a) and (c) of Title 53 of the~~ <--
9 ~~Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are amended to read:~~

10 SECTION 1. THE DEFINITION OF "POLICE ANIMAL" IN SECTION 5531 <--
11 OF TITLE 18 OF THE PENNSYLVANIA CONSOLIDATED STATUTES IS AMENDED
12 TO READ:

13 § 5531. DEFINITIONS.

14 THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES WHEN USED IN THIS SUBCHAPTER
15 SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SECTION UNLESS THE
16 CONTEXT CLEARLY INDICATES OTHERWISE:

17 * * *

18 "POLICE ANIMAL." AN ANIMAL, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO,

1 DOGS AND HORSES, USED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE, A POLICE
2 DEPARTMENT CREATED BY A METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
3 OPERATING UNDER 74 PA.C.S. CH. 17 (RELATING TO METROPOLITAN
4 TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITIES), A POLICE DEPARTMENT CREATED UNDER
5 THE ACT OF APRIL 6, 1956 (1955 P.L.1414, NO.465), KNOWN AS THE
6 SECOND CLASS COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY ACT, THE CAPITOL POLICE, THE
7 DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, THE OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL, A
8 COUNTY FACILITY OR OFFICE OR BY A MUNICIPAL POLICE DEPARTMENT,
9 FIRE DEPARTMENT, SEARCH AND RESCUE UNIT OR AGENCY OR HANDLER
10 UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT, SEARCH AND RESCUE UNIT
11 OR AGENCY IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THE FUNCTIONS OR DUTIES OF THE
12 DEPARTMENT, SEARCH AND RESCUE UNIT OR AGENCY, WHETHER THE ANIMAL
13 IS ON DUTY OR NOT ON DUTY. THE TERM SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE
14 LIMITED TO, AN ACCELERANT DETECTION DOG, BOMB DETECTION DOG,
15 NARCOTIC DETECTION DOG, SEARCH AND RESCUE DOG AND TRACKING
16 ANIMAL.

17 * * *

18 SECTION 2. SECTION 2172(A) AND (C) OF TITLE 53 ARE AMENDED
19 TO READ:

20 § 2172. Canine training standards for police officers.

21 (a) Establishment.--The commission, in collaboration with
22 the Pennsylvania State Police and municipal police department
23 canine units or officers, shall establish police officer canine
24 training and certification standards, including all of the
25 following:

26 (1) Standards for initial certifications.

27 (2) Standards for maintenance certifications.

28 (3) Record-keeping policies and procedures for police
29 department canine units or officers.

30 (4) Standards for safety protocols for canine units that

1 may be exposed to fentanyl. In developing the standards under
2 this paragraph, the following shall be consulted:

3 (i) Experts that train canines to imprint on
4 controlled substances.

5 (ii) Law enforcement that use canines to detect
6 controlled substances.

7 (iii) Experts on the training of canines for use by
8 law enforcement.

9 (iv) Licensed medical professionals and
10 veterinarians with experience in:

11 (A) Standard protocols to minimize exposure of
12 canines and canine handlers to opioids and opioid
13 derivatives, including fentanyl and fentanyl
14 derivatives.

15 (B) Detecting clinical signs of fentanyl
16 exposure.

17 (C) Intervening with timely and appropriate
18 medical and veterinary medical treatment in the
19 field, during stabilization and transport, and in-
20 hospital following exposure to opioids and opioid
21 derivatives, including fentanyl and fentanyl
22 derivatives.

23 * * *

24 (c) Notice.--The commission shall transmit notice of the
25 standards established and updated under this section to the
26 Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the next
27 available issue of the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

28 Section 2 3. This act shall take effect in 180 days.

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