

SENATE, No. 241

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

214th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2010 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator CHRISTOPHER "KIP" BATEMAN

District 16 (Morris and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Creates crime of threatening the life of certain animals.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



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1 AN ACT concerning threats against certain animals and amending
2 P.L.1983, c.261.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the
5 State of New Jersey:

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7 1. Section 1 of P.L.1983, c.261 (C.2C:29-3.1) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 1. a. Any person who purposely kills a dog, horse or other
10 animal owned or used by a law enforcement agency or a search and
11 rescue dog shall be guilty of a crime of the third degree.

12 b. Any person who purposely maims or otherwise inflicts harm
13 upon a dog, horse or other animal owned or used by a law
14 enforcement agency or a search and rescue dog shall be guilty of a
15 crime of the fourth degree.

16 c. Any person who purposely taunts, torments, or threatens the
17 life of a dog, horse or other animal owned or used by a law
18 enforcement agency or a search and rescue dog shall be guilty of a
19 crime of the fourth degree.

20 d. Any person who interferes with any law enforcement officer
21 using an animal in the performance of his official duties commits a
22 disorderly persons offense, subject to a sentence of six months'
23 imprisonment, some or all of which may be community service,
24 restitution and a \$1,000.00 fine.

25 As used in this section, "search and rescue dog" means any dog
26 trained or being trained for the purpose of search and rescue that is
27 owned by an independent handler or member of a search and rescue
28 team, and used in conjunction with local law enforcement or
29 emergency services organizations for the purpose of locating
30 missing persons or evidence of arson.

31 (cf: P.L.2005, c.24, s.1)

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33 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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38 This bill amends N.J.S.A.2C:29-3.1, which sets forth the
39 penalties associated with inflicting harm or interfering with an
40 animal owned or used by a law enforcement agency or a search and
41 rescue dog. Currently, that law provides: any person who purposely
42 kills an animal owned or used by the police is guilty of a crime of
43 the third degree; any person who purposely maims or otherwise
44 inflicts harm upon an animal owned or used by the police is guilty
45 of a crime of the fourth degree; and any person who interferes with

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

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1 any law enforcement officer using an animal in the performance of
2 his official duties is guilty of a disorderly persons offense.

3 This bill adds a provision to that law that any person who
4 purposely taunts, torments, or threatens the life of an animal owned
5 or used by the police would be guilty of a crime of the fourth
6 degree. A fourth degree crime is punishable by up to 18 months'
7 imprisonment and a fine of up to \$10,000.