

P.L.2011, CHAPTER 77, *approved June 21, 2011*

Senate, No. 2541

1 AN ACT concerning certain dogs, to be known as Schultz's law, and
2 amending P.L.1983, c.261.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *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. Any person who purposely kills a dog, horse or other animal
10 owned or used by a law enforcement agency or a search and rescue
11 dog shall be guilty of a crime of the third degree, and shall be
12 sentenced by the court to a term of imprisonment. The term of
13 imprisonment shall include the imposition of a minimum term. The
14 minimum term shall be fixed at five years, during which the
15 defendant shall be ineligible for parole. In addition, the court shall
16 impose a fine of \$15,000. Any person who purposely maims or
17 otherwise inflicts harm upon a dog, horse or other animal owned or
18 used by a law enforcement agency or a search and rescue dog shall
19 be guilty of a crime of the fourth degree. Any person who
20 interferes with any law enforcement officer using an animal in the
21 performance of his official duties commits a disorderly persons
22 offense, subject to a sentence of six months' imprisonment, some or
23 all of which may be community service, restitution and a \$1,000.00
24 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, to be known as "Schultz's Law," enhances the penalty
39 for killing a police dog or a dog engaged in search and rescue
40 efforts.

41 Under this bill, persons convicted of killing a police dog or a dog
42 engaged in search and rescue efforts would be subject to a

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 mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of five years, during
2 which they would be ineligible for parole. In addition, they would
3 be subject to a \$15,000 fine.

4 Currently, a person convicted of killing a police dog or search
5 and rescue dog is guilty of a crime of the third degree. A crime of
6 the third degree is punishable by a term of imprisonment of three to
7 five years, a fine of not more than \$15,000, or both.

8 Schultz was a Gloucester Township K-9 who, while in the
9 process of chasing an alleged perpetrator, was tragically killed. The
10 incident has brought to light the constant sacrifice given by K-9
11 officers. This bill is to be named "Schultz's Law" in memory of all
12 K-9 officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

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17 Enhances penalty for killing police dog or dog engaged in search
18 and rescue efforts.