

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 4431

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, February 3, 2022.

The committee on Ways and Means, to whom was referred the Senate Bill allowing humane transportation of K9 partners aka Nero's law (Senate, No. 2573), reports recommending that the same ought to pass with an amendment striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in House, No. 4431.

For the committee,

AARON MICHLEWITZ.

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 4431

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Text of an amendment, recommended by the committee on Ways and Means, to the Senate Bill allowing humane transportation of K9 partners aka Nero's law (Senate, No. 2573). February 3, 2022.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court**  
**(2021-2022)**  
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By striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the following:—

1           SECTION 1. Section 1 of chapter 111C of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the definition of “person” the following  
3 definition:—

4           “Police dog”, a dog owned by a police department or police agency of the  
5 commonwealth, or any political subdivision thereof, and used by the department or agency for  
6 official duties.

7           SECTION 2. Said chapter 111C is hereby further amended by inserting after section 9 the  
8 following section:—

9           Section 9A. (a) EMS personnel shall provide emergency treatment to a police dog injured  
10 in the line of duty and transport such police dog by ambulance to a veterinary care facility  
11 equipped to provide emergency treatment to dogs; provided, however, that EMS personnel shall  
12 not transport an injured police dog if providing such transport would inhibit their ability to  
13 provide emergency medical attention or transport to a person requiring such services.

14 (b) The department, in consultation with the Massachusetts Veterinary Medical  
15 Association and the department of state police's K9 unit, shall develop policies and procedures  
16 for each region that shall include, but not be limited to: (i) appropriate training of EMS personnel  
17 to provide police dogs basic level first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and life-saving  
18 interventions, including, but not limited to, administering naloxone; provided, however, that  
19 nothing in this section shall authorize the provision of advanced life support care to a police dog;  
20 (ii) safe handling procedures for injured police dogs, including, but not limited to, the use of a  
21 box muzzle and response coordination with a law enforcement official trained in handling police  
22 dogs; (iii) identification of veterinary facilities that provide emergency treatment for injured  
23 police dogs; (iv) decontamination of stretchers, the patient compartment and any contaminated  
24 medical equipment after a police dog has been transported by EMS vehicle; and (v) sterilization  
25 of the interior of an EMS vehicle before being returned to human service, including, but not  
26 limited to, sanitizing all allergens and disinfection to a standard safe for human transport.

27 (c) The department may grant a waiver of this section if the department determines that  
28 compliance poses a safety risk to the public. The department shall develop regulations regarding  
29 applications and issuance of such a waiver.

30 SECTION 3. Said chapter 111C is hereby further amended by striking out section 21 and  
31 inserting in place thereof the following section:-

32 Section 21. No EMS personnel certified, accredited or otherwise approved under this  
33 chapter, and no additional personnel certified or authorized under section 9, who in the  
34 performance of their duties and in good faith, render emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary  
35 resuscitation, transportation or other EMS to an injured person, a person incapacitated by illness

36 or an injured police dog under section 9A shall be personally liable as a result of rendering such  
37 aid or services or, in the case of an emergency medical technician or additional personnel, as a  
38 result of transporting such person to a hospital or such police dog to a veterinary care facility, nor  
39 shall they be liable to a hospital or veterinary care facility for its expenses if, under emergency  
40 conditions, they cause the admission of such person or such police dog to the hospital or the  
41 veterinary care facility.

42 SECTION 4. The second paragraph of section 58 of chapter 112 of the General Laws, as  
43 appearing in the 2020 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following clause:-

44 9. The provision of care to an injured police dog by an EMS provider under section 9A of  
45 chapter 111C.