

HB 1719 -- LAW ENFORCEMENT ANIMALS

SPONSOR: Falkner

This bill replaces the term "police animal" with the term "law enforcement animal". The bill also labels the section related to assault on a law enforcement animal as "Max's Law".

Currently, an assault on a law enforcement animal is a class C misdemeanor, unless the assault results in the death of the animal or the animal is disabled to the extent the animal is unable to be utilized as a law enforcement animal, in which case it is a class E felony.

As specified in this bill, the offense is a class A misdemeanor if the law enforcement animal is not injured to the point of requiring veterinary care or treatment, a class E felony if the animal is seriously injured to the point of requiring veterinary care or treatment, and a class D felony if the assault results in the death of the animal.

Additionally, certain statutes have an exemption for bites from animals owned or used by a law enforcement agency. This bill adds an exemption for injuries caused by such animals.

This bill is the same as HB 1116 (2023) and similar to SB 189 (2023).