

HB 2504 -- OFFENSES AGAINST POLICE ANIMALS

SPONSOR: Falkner

This bill increases the offense of assault on a police animal from a class C misdemeanor to a class A misdemeanor. The bill also adds a requirement for people convicted of assault on a police animal that they make restitution for injuries caused to the police animal and that they pay the replacement cost of the animal if, as a result of the offense, the animal can no longer perform the animal's duties.

The bill creates the offense of harassment of a police animal, which a person commits if he or she intentionally, knowingly, or maliciously harasses, teases, or interferes with or attempts to interfere with a police animal in the performance of the animal's duties. The offense of harassment of a police animal is a class B misdemeanor. The bill also adds a requirement for people convicted of harassment of a police animal that they make restitution for injuries caused to the police animal and that they pay the replacement cost of the animal if, as a result of the offense, the animal can no longer perform the animal's duties.