

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 2504

## 101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE FALKNER.

5241H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

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### AN ACT

To repeal section 575.353, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to offenses against police animals, with penalty provisions.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Section 575.353, RSMo, is repealed and two new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 575.353 and 575.354, to read as follows:

575.353. 1. A person commits the offense of assault on a police animal if he or she knowingly attempts to kill or disable or knowingly causes or attempts to cause serious physical injury to a police animal when that animal is involved in law enforcement investigation, apprehension, tracking, or search, or the animal is in the custody of or under the control of a law enforcement officer, department of corrections officer, municipal police department, fire department or a rescue unit or agency.

2. The offense of assault on a police animal is a class [C] A misdemeanor, unless the assault results in the death of such animal or disables such animal to the extent it is unable to be utilized as a police animal, in which case it is a class E felony.

3. **A person convicted of the offense of assault on a police animal shall make restitution for injuries caused to the police animal and shall pay the replacement cost of the animal if, as a result of the offense, the animal can no longer perform the animal's duties.**

575.354. 1. **A person commits the offense of harassment of a police animal if a person intentionally, knowingly, or maliciously harasses, teases, or interferes with or attempts to interfere with a police animal while the animal is in the performance of the animal's duties.**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

5           **2. The offense of harassment of a police animal is a class B misdemeanor.**

6           **3. A person convicted of the offense of harassment of a police animal shall make**  
7 **restitution for injuries caused to the police animal and shall pay the replacement cost of**  
8 **the animal if, as a result of the offense, the animal can no longer perform the animal's**  
9 **duties.**

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