

SENATE BILL 948

By Kyle

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 38,  
relative to police canine units.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 38, Chapter 8, Part 1, is amended by  
adding the following as a new section:

**38-8-127.**

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Handler" means a law enforcement officer who is specially trained,  
and uses a police service canine to accomplish the performance of law  
enforcement duties; and

(2) "Police service canine" means any dog used by a law enforcement  
agency that is specially trained for law enforcement duties, including, but not  
limited to patrol, narcotics detection, and explosive detection.

(b) Beginning July 1, 2021, and annually thereafter each law enforcement  
agency that utilizes police service canines for law enforcement purposes shall complete  
and submit a report to the peace officer standards and training (POST) commission.

The report shall be in a format provided by the department and shall include the  
following information for the previous year:

(1) The number of times police service canines were deployed;

(2) The number of searches conducted by police service canines and the  
percentage of searches that successfully located the intended subject or  
evidence;

(3) The number of times a subject surrendered as the result of a police service canine being present;

(4) The number of times a police service canine made contact with a subject other than a bite;

(5) The number of times a police service canine bit a subject; and

(6) Any protocols or policies concerning the training and deployment of police service canines.

(c) By January 1, 2022, the POST commission shall develop recommended policies and training requirements for law enforcement agencies that utilize police service canines. The recommendations must include, but are not limited to:

(1) Training requirements for handlers;

(2) Minimum standards for the care of police service canines;

(3) Protocols for the deployment of police service canines; and

(4) Training on techniques to reduce injury by a police service canine while maintaining subject compliance.

(d) By July 1, 2022, each law enforcement agency that utilizes police service canines must adopt police service canine policies and training requirements that substantially conform to the recommended policies and training requirements developed by the POST commission.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.