

2021 -- H 5165

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- ANIMAL CARE

Introduced By: Representative David A. Bennett

Date Introduced: January 25, 2021

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 4-19 of the General Laws entitled "Animal Care" is hereby amended
2 by adding thereto the following section:

3 **4-19-23. Police dogs - Injured on duty.**

4 (a) An emergency medical technician (EMT) or emergency medical service (EMS)
5 provider may transport any police dog injured in the line of duty to a veterinary hospital or clinic
6 provided, however, that there are no persons requiring medical attention or transport at such time.
7 For purposes of this section, a "police dog" means a dog owned or used by a law enforcement
8 department or agency in the course of the department's or agency's work, including a search and
9 rescue dog, service dog, accelerant detection dog or other dog in use by a law enforcement agency.

10 (b) During transport, an EMT or EMS provider may provide care including:

11 (1) Opening and manually maintaining an airway;

12 (2) Giving mouth to snout or mouth to barrier ventilation;

13 (3) Administering oxygen;

14 (4) Managing ventilation by mask;

15 (5) Controlling hemorrhage with direct pressure;

16 (6) Immobilizing fractures;

17 (7) Bandaging; or

18 (8) Administering naloxone hydrochloride, if administering the drug has been authorized
19 in accordance with a written protocol established and provided by a veterinarian or pursuant to a

1 consultation with a veterinarian.

2 (c) An EMT or EMS provider who is in the performance of their duties and in good faith
3 renders emergency first aid or transportation to an injured police dog as permitted by the provisions
4 of this section, shall not be personally liable as a result of rendering such aid or transportation, nor
5 shall they be liable to the veterinary hospital or clinic for expenses incurred for emergency care
6 provided to the injured police dog.

7 (d) An EMT or EMS provider may require a member of the law enforcement department
8 or agency to accompany the injured police dog during transport.

9 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

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- 1 This act would authorize emergency medical service providers to transport and provide
- 2 first aid to police dogs injured in the line of duty.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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