

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 53

H.P. 49

House of Representatives, January 11, 2005

An Act To Criminalize Harming a Dog Used for Law Enforcement Purposes

Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative FISCHER of Presque Isle.
Cosponsored by Senator DIAMOND of Cumberland and
Representatives: GERZOFSKY of Brunswick, SYKES of Harrison, Senator: CLUKEY of
Aroostook.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

2
3 **Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §752-B**, as amended by PL 2001, c. 383, §§82
4 and 83 and affected by §156, is further amended to read:

6 **§752-B. Unlawful interference with law enforcement**
7 **dogs**

8
9 1. A person is guilty of unlawful interference with a law
10 enforcement dog if the person intentionally or knowingly:

11 A. Kills, mutilates or permanently disables any dog that
12 the person knows or reasonably should have known is
13 ~~certified~~ used for law enforcement ~~use~~ purposes. Violation
14 of this paragraph is a Class C crime; or

15 B. Torments, beats, strikes, injures, temporarily disables
16 or otherwise mistreats any dog that the person knows or
17 reasonably should have known is ~~certified~~ used for law
18 enforcement ~~use~~ purposes. Violation of this paragraph is a
19 Class D crime.

20
21 ~~2.--For the purposes of this section, a dog is certified for~~
22 ~~law enforcement use if the State has certified that the dog has~~
23 ~~satisfactorily completed requisite training for one or more law~~
24 ~~enforcement purposes.~~

25
26
27 **SUMMARY**

28
29 30 This bill amends the law regarding interference with law
30 enforcement dogs by applying the crime to any person who harms a
31 dog that the person knows or reasonably should have known is used
32 for law enforcement purposes. Currently, the prohibition applies
33 only to a person who harms a dog that the person knows or
34 reasonably should have known is certified by the State for law
35 enforcement use.
36