

SB 268 - AS INTRODUCED

2023 SESSION

23-1057

08/07

SENATE BILL

**268**

AN ACT

allowing for pre-hospital treatment and transportation for police canines.

SPONSORS:

Sen. D'Allesandro, Dist 20; Sen. Ricciardi, Dist 9; Sen. Birdsell, Dist 19; Sen. Innis, Dist 7; Sen. Lang, Dist 2; Sen. Avar, Dist 12; Sen. Bradley, Dist 3; Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Gannon, Dist 23; Sen. Rosenwald, Dist 13; Sen. Ward, Dist 8; Sen. Gendreau, Dist 1; Sen. Carson, Dist 14

COMMITTEE:

Judiciary

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ANALYSIS

This bill allows emergency services personnel to treat and transport police canines.

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Explanation:

Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.

Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough]~~

Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Three*

AN ACT allowing for pre-hospital treatment and transportation for police canines.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1 1 Short Title. This act shall be known as "Max's Law."

2 2 New Subdivision; Police Canine Trauma Transport. Amend RSA 153-A by inserting after  
3 section 34 the following new subdivision:

4 Police Canine Trauma Transport

5 153-A:35 Police Canines; Hospital Treatment.

6 I. In this section:

7 (a) "Emergency medical care provider" means an employee or volunteer member of a  
8 public or private organization having responsibility for the delivery of health services to individuals  
9 experiencing illness or injury at a location other than a hospital or other medical facility. The term  
10 shall not include lifeguards at swimming facilities or members of ski patrols, or New Hampshire fish  
11 and game department conservation officers, unless said individuals are performing invasive patient  
12 care procedures.

13 (b) "Law enforcement officer" or "police officer" means any sheriff or deputy sheriff,  
14 constable, watchman, member of the national guard acting under orders while in active state service  
15 ordered by the governor under RSA 110-B:6, or other person authorized to make arrests in a  
16 criminal case.

17 (c) "Police canine" means a dog trained for law enforcement use that is actively certified  
18 pursuant to federal, national, regional or state standards and that is owned or maintained by a law  
19 enforcement agency or other governmentally funded agency for law enforcement or security services.

20 (d) "Treatment" means cardiopulmonary resuscitation, opening and manually  
21 maintaining an airway, giving mouth to snout or mouth to barrier ventilation, endotracheal  
22 intubation, administering oxygen, managing ventilation by mask, hemorrhage control, immobilizing  
23 fractures, bandaging, initiating intravenous therapy, administering fluids, decontamination from  
24 toxin exposure, medication administration as established by published veterinary emergency  
25 medical services protocol.

26 II. Any ambulance owned and/or operated by any public or private entity may provide  
27 transport to a police canine to a veterinary care facility only if the animal has been injured in the  
28 line of duty and no human needs transport or ambulance services. Emergency medical care  
29 providers may request that a law enforcement officer assist with securing the police canine and  
30 accompanying them during the transport.

1           III. An emergency medical care provider certified, accredited or otherwise approved to  
2 administer treatment and who is in the performance of their duties and in good faith render  
3 emergency first aid to an injured police canine, shall not be personally liable as a result of rendering  
4 such aid or services unless it is established that the injury or the death was caused willfully,  
5 wantonly, or recklessly or by gross negligence on the part of the emergency medical care provider. In  
6 the case of an emergency medical care provider, as a result of transporting a police canine to a  
7 veterinary care facility, shall not be liable to a veterinary care facility for its expenses if, under  
8 emergency conditions, they cause the admission of such animal to said veterinary care facility.

9           3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.