

2022 -- H 7021 SUBSTITUTE A

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LC003225/SUB A/2
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

A N A C T

RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- ANIMAL CARE

Introduced By: Representatives Bennett, C Lima, Solomon, Edwards, Shanley, Serpa,
Amore, Carson, Craven, and Noret

Date Introduced: January 10, 2022

Referred To: House Health & Human Services

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. Humane transportation of K-9 partners.**

4 (a) For this purposes of this section "police dog" means: a dog owned by a police
5 department or police agency of the State of Rhode Island or any political subdivision thereof, that
6 is used by the department or agency for official duties.

7 (b) EMS personnel may provide emergency treatment to a police dog injured in the line of
8 duty and transport such police dog by ambulance to a veterinary care facility equipped to provide
9 emergency treatment to dogs; provided, however, that EMS personnel shall not transport an injured
10 police dog if providing such transport would inhibit their ability to provide emergency medical
11 attention or transport to a person requiring such services.

12 (c) The department of health, in consultation with the Rhode Island veterinary medical
13 association, the Rhode Island association of fire chiefs, the Rhode Island state association of
14 firefighters, at least two (2) practicing, licensed emergency medical technicians, the international
15 brotherhood of police officers' K-9 officer, the fraternal order of police's K-9 officer, and the
16 department of state police's K-9 unit, shall develop policies and procedures that include, but are not
17 limited to:

18 (1) Appropriate training of EMS personnel to provide police dogs basic level first aid,
19 cardiopulmonary resuscitation and life-saving interventions, including, but not limited to,

1 administering naloxone; provided, however, that nothing in this section shall authorize the
2 provision of advanced life support care to a police dog;

3 (2) Safe handling procedures for injured police dogs, including, but not limited to, the use
4 of a box muzzle and response coordination with a law enforcement official trained in handling
5 police dogs;

6 (3) Identification of veterinary facilities that provide emergency treatment for injured
7 police dogs;

8 (4) Decontamination of stretchers, the patient compartment and any contaminated medical
9 equipment after a police dog has been transported by ambulance or EMS vehicle; and

10 (5) Sterilization of the interior of an ambulance or EMS vehicle before being returned to
11 human service, including, but not limited to, sanitizing all allergens and disinfection to a standard
12 safe for human transport.

13 (d) The department of health may grant a waiver from this section if the department
14 determines that compliance poses a safety risk to the public. The department shall develop
15 regulations regarding applications and issuance of such a waiver.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- ANIMAL CARE

1 This act would allow emergency medical treatment to police dogs injured in the line of
2 duty, which would include transporting by ambulance.

3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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