

Senate File 2296 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 2296
BY COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 2031)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act allowing police service dogs to receive emergency
2 veterinary medical services while on duty.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 147A.8, Code 2024, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 3. Provide veterinary medical services by
4 diagnosing or treating a severely injured police service dog
5 as provided in section 169.4.

6 Sec. 2. Section 169.4, Code 2024, is amended by adding the
7 following new subsection:

8 NEW SUBSECTION. 16. *a.* An emergency medical care provider
9 certified pursuant to chapter 147A who elects to provide
10 veterinary medical services by diagnosing or treating a police
11 service dog, if all of the following apply:

12 (1) The police service dog was on duty under the supervision
13 of a peace officer as defined in section 801.4.

14 (2) The police service dog suffered a severe injury.

15 (3) The veterinary medical services are necessary to
16 immediately stabilize the police service dog's condition for
17 later diagnosis or treatment by a licensed veterinarian or the
18 holder of a valid temporary permit.

19 *b.* An emergency medical care provider certified pursuant
20 to chapter 147A may elect not to provide veterinary medical
21 services under paragraph "*a*".

22 *c.* If an emergency medical care provider certified pursuant
23 to chapter 147A elects to provide veterinary medical services
24 under paragraph "*a*", the emergency medical care provider shall
25 not be civilly liable for diagnosing or treating the police
26 service dog if the emergency medical care provider acted
27 reasonably and in good faith.

28 *d.* An emergency medical care provider certified pursuant to
29 chapter 147A electing to provide veterinary medical services
30 under paragraph "*a*" shall comply with all of the following:

31 (1) The emergency medical care provider may diagnose
32 or treat a severely injured police service dog only after
33 the emergency medical care provider furnishes all diagnoses
34 or treatment needed by the last human at the scene of the
35 emergency.

1 (2) The emergency medical care provider shall not use
2 equipment, or shall discontinue the use of equipment, to
3 diagnose or treat a severely injured police service dog at the
4 scene of an emergency, if any of the following apply:

5 (a) The equipment is needed to diagnose or treat a human at
6 the scene of the emergency.

7 (b) The equipment is dispatched to another location.

8 (3) The emergency medical care provider shall not diagnose
9 or treat a severely injured police service dog, or shall
10 discontinue diagnosing or treating a severely injured police
11 service dog, at the scene of an emergency, if any of the
12 following apply:

13 (a) The emergency medical care provider is dispatched to
14 another location.

15 (b) A vehicle used to transport the emergency medical care
16 provider is dispatched to another location.

17 e. A severely injured police service dog shall not be
18 transported in a vehicle that provides emergency medical or
19 ambulance services.

20 EXPLANATION

21 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
22 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

23 BACKGROUND. Current law provides for veterinary medical
24 services that include diagnosing or treating an animal's
25 injury. The services are required to be provided by a
26 veterinarian holding a license or temporary permit issued by
27 the Iowa board of veterinary medicine (Code chapter 169).
28 Certain exceptions apply which allow other persons to provide
29 limited services, such as persons performing accepted livestock
30 management practices (Code section 169.4).

31 BILL'S PROVISIONS — GENERAL PROVISIONS. This bill provides
32 an exception for a person certified by the Iowa department of
33 health and human services as an emergency medical care provider
34 (care provider) (Code chapter 147A) when furnishing aid, in the
35 form of diagnosis or treatment, to a police service dog acting

1 under the supervision of a peace officer (e.g., county sheriff
2 or deputy, police officer employed by a city, or member of the
3 department of public safety). The police service dog must be
4 injured while on duty, the injury must be severe, and the aid
5 must be necessary to immediately stabilize the police service
6 dog's condition for later diagnosis or treatment by a licensed
7 veterinarian or temporary permit holder. A care provider who
8 acts in good faith to provide veterinary medical services to a
9 police service dog is not civilly liable.

10 BILL'S PROVISIONS — CONDITIONS. The care provider in
11 furnishing aid to the police service dog must comply with a
12 number of conditions. The care provider must first furnish
13 aid to the last human at the scene of the emergency; must not
14 use equipment, or discontinue the use of equipment, to furnish
15 aid to a treat a police service dog if the equipment is needed
16 to furnish aid to a human at the scene of the emergency or
17 the equipment is dispatched to another location; and must not
18 render aid to a police service dog, or discontinue rendering
19 aid, at the scene of an emergency, if the care provider is
20 dispatched to another location or the vehicle used to transport
21 the care provider is dispatched to another location. In
22 addition, the police service dog cannot be transported in a
23 vehicle that provides emergency medical or ambulance services.