

Senate File 539 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 539
BY COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 299)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act allowing emergency medical care providers to diagnose
2 and treat severe injuries suffered by police service dogs
3 while on duty.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 147A.8, Code 2023, 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 2023, 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", all of the following apply:

25 (1) The emergency medical care provider shall diagnose or
26 treat the police service dog only after diagnosing or treating
27 any injured human at the scene of the emergency.

28 (2) The emergency medical care provider shall not be civilly
29 liable for diagnosing or treating the police service dog if the
30 emergency medical care provider acted reasonably and in good
31 faith.

32 EXPLANATION

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

35 BACKGROUND. Current law provides for veterinary medical

1 services that include diagnosing or treating an animal's
2 injury. The services are required to be provided by a
3 veterinarian holding a license or temporary permit issued by
4 the Iowa board of veterinary medicine (Code chapter 169).
5 Certain exceptions apply which allow other persons to provide
6 limited services, such as persons performing accepted livestock
7 management practices (Code section 169.4).

8 BILL'S PROVISIONS. This bill provides an exception for
9 a person certified by the Iowa department of public health
10 as an emergency medical care provider (Code chapter 147A)
11 when diagnosing or treating a police service dog acting under
12 the supervision of peace officer (e.g., county sheriff or
13 deputy, police officer employed by a city, or member of the
14 department of public safety). The police service dog must
15 be injured while on duty, the injury must be severe, and the
16 veterinary medical services must be necessary to immediately
17 stabilize the police service dog's condition for a later
18 diagnosis or treatment by a licensed veterinarian or temporary
19 permit holder. The bill provides that an emergency medical
20 care provider is not required to diagnose or treat a police
21 service dog, cannot provide such a service prior to diagnosing
22 or treating a human at the scene of an emergency, and is not
23 civilly liable for diagnosing or treating the police service
24 dog if the emergency medical care provider acted reasonably and
25 in good faith.