

House File 490 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 490

BY GJERDE

(COMPANION TO SF 296 BY COMMITTEE
ON JUDICIARY)

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:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 147A.8, Code 2025, 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 as
5 provided in section 169.4.

6 Sec. 2. Section 169.4, Code 2025, is amended by adding the
7 following new subsection:

8 NEW SUBSECTION. 17. 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 to
20 chapter 147A may elect not to provide veterinary medical services
21 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 or treat
32 a severely injured police service dog only after the emergency
33 medical care provider furnishes all diagnoses or treatment needed
34 by the last human at the scene of the emergency.

35 (2) The emergency medical care provider shall not use

1 equipment, or shall discontinue the use of equipment, to diagnose
2 or treat a severely injured police service dog at the scene of an
3 emergency, if any of the following apply:

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

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

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

11 (a) The emergency medical care provider is dispatched to
12 another location.

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

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

18 **EXPLANATION**

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

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

29 **BILL'S PROVISIONS — GENERAL PROVISIONS.** This bill provides
30 an exception for a person certified by the Iowa department of
31 health and human services as an emergency medical care provider
32 (care provider) (Code chapter 147A) when furnishing aid, in the
33 form of diagnosis or treatment, to a police service dog acting
34 under the supervision of a peace officer (e.g., county sheriff
35 or deputy, police officer employed by a city, or member of the

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

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