

HB 1649 -- LAW ENFORCEMENT ANIMALS (Cornejo)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety

Currently, assault on a law enforcement animal is a class C misdemeanor. This bill changes the penalty to a class A misdemeanor. If the assault on the law enforcement animal results in the death of the animal or disables the animal to the extent it is unable to be utilized as a law enforcement animal, the penalty is currently a class E felony. This bill changes the penalty to a class C felony.

Additionally, there are currently some specified circumstances exempted from various animal offenses. This bill excludes from the exemption the killing or injuring of a law enforcement animal.

This bill also exempts any dog that is owned, or the service of which is employed, by a law enforcement agency and that injures another animal or human in the course of their official duties from certain animal-related statutes.

This bill is the same as HB 423 (2017).