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HOUSE BILL 1864

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State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Representatives Finkbeiner, Dyer, Horn, L. Johnson, Orr, Brumsickle, Cothorn, Springer, Mastin, Brough, Long, King and R. Meyers

Read first time 02/12/93. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to accelerant detection dogs; amending RCW 4.24.410  
2 and 9A.76.200; and prescribing penalties.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 4.24.410 and 1989 c 26 s 1 are each amended to read as  
5 follows:

6 (1) As used in this section:

7 (a) "Police dog" means a dog used by a law enforcement agency  
8 specially trained for law enforcement work and under the control of a  
9 dog handler.

10 (b) "Accelerant detection dog" means a dog used exclusively for  
11 accelerant detection by the state fire marshal or a fire department and  
12 under the control of the state fire marshal or his or her designee or  
13 a fire department handler.

14 (c) "Dog handler" means a law enforcement officer who has  
15 successfully completed training as prescribed by the Washington state  
16 criminal justice training commission in police dog handling, or in the  
17 case of an accelerant detection dog, the state fire marshal's designee  
18 or an employee of the fire department authorized by the fire chief to  
19 be the dog's handler.

1 (2) Any dog handler who uses a police dog in the line of duty in  
2 good faith is immune from civil action for damages arising out of such  
3 use of the police dog or accelerant detection dog.

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 9A.76.200 and 1989 c 26 s 2 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 (1) A person is guilty of harming a police dog or accelerant  
7 detection dog if he or she maliciously injures, disables, shoots, or  
8 kills by any means any dog that the person knows or has reason to know  
9 to be a police dog or accelerant detection dog, as defined in RCW  
10 4.24.410, whether or not the dog is actually engaged in police or  
11 accelerant detection work at the time of the injury.

12 (2) Harming a police dog or accelerant detection dog is a class C  
13 felony.

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