



## 103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

SB2384

Introduced 2/10/2023, by Sen. Javier L. Cervantes

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Care for Retired Police Dogs Program Act. Creates the Care for Retired Police Dogs Program within the Illinois State Police to provide a stable funding source for the veterinary care for retired police dogs. Provides that the Illinois State Police shall contract with a not-for-profit corporation organized under Article 2 of the General Not For Profit Corporation Act of 1986 to administer and manage the Care for Retired Police Dogs Program. Provides that the Illinois State Police shall select the not-for-profit corporation through a competitive grant award process. Establishes criteria for the selection of the not-for-profit corporation. Provides that from appropriations made by the General Assembly to the Illinois State Police for implementation of the Act, the Illinois State Police shall make grants to the not-for-profit corporation contracted by the Illinois State Police to be the disbursing authority for the Care for Retired Police Dogs Program. Provides that these funds must be disbursed to the former handler or the adopter of a retired police dog that served for 5 years or more as a police dog upon receipt specified verification. Provides that annual disbursements to a former handler or an adopter to reimburse him or her for the cost of the retired police dog's veterinary care may not exceed \$1,500 per dog. Provides that a former handler or an adopter of a retired police dog may not accumulate unused funds from a current year for use in a future year. Provides that the Illinois State Police shall pay to the not-for-profit corporation, and the not-for-profit corporation may use, up to 10% of appropriated funds for its administrative expenses, including salaries and benefits. Provides that the Illinois State Police shall adopt rules to implement the Act.

LRB103 26869 RLC 53233 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning retired police dogs.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Care  
5 for Retired Police Dogs Program Act.

6 Section 5. General Assembly findings. The General Assembly  
7 finds that:

8 (1) Police dogs are an integral part of many law  
9 enforcement and correctional efforts statewide, including  
10 the apprehension of suspects through tracking and  
11 searching, evidence location, drug and bomb detection, and  
12 search and rescue operations.

13 (2) Law enforcement and correctional agencies agree  
14 that the use of police dogs is an extremely cost-effective  
15 means of crime control and that police dogs possess skills  
16 and abilities that frequently exceed those of existing  
17 technology.

18 (3) The service of police dogs is often dangerous and  
19 can expose them to injury at a rate higher than that of  
20 nonservice dogs.

21 (4) Police dogs provide significant contributions to  
22 the residents of this State.

1 Section 10. Definitions. In this Act:

2 "Correctional agency" means a lawfully established State  
3 or local public agency having primary responsibility for the  
4 supervision, protection, care, custody, control, or  
5 investigation of inmates at a correctional institution.

6 "Law enforcement agency" means a lawfully established  
7 State or local public agency having primary responsibility for  
8 the prevention and detection of crime or the enforcement of  
9 penal, traffic, highway, regulatory, game, immigration,  
10 postal, customs, or controlled substance laws.

11 "Retired police dog" means a dog that was previously in  
12 the service of or employed by a law enforcement agency or a  
13 correctional agency in this State for the principal purpose of  
14 aiding in the detection of criminal activity, enforcement of  
15 laws, or apprehension of offenders and that received  
16 certification in obedience and apprehension work from a  
17 certifying organization, such as the National Police Canine  
18 Association, Inc., or other certifying organization.

19 "Veterinarian" has the same meaning as in Section 3 of the  
20 Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act of 2004.

21 "Veterinary care" means the practice, by a veterinarian,  
22 of veterinary medicine as defined in Section 3 of the  
23 Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act of 2004. The term  
24 includes annual wellness examinations, vaccinations, internal  
25 and external parasite prevention treatments, testing and  
26 treatment of illnesses and diseases, medications, emergency

1 care and surgeries, veterinary oncology or other specialty  
2 care, euthanasia, and cremation.

3 Section 15. Establishment of program. The Care for Retired  
4 Police Dogs Program is created within the Illinois State  
5 Police to provide a stable funding source for the veterinary  
6 care for retired police dogs.

7 Section 20. Administration. The Illinois State Police  
8 shall contract with a not-for-profit corporation organized  
9 under Article 2 of the General Not For Profit Corporation Act  
10 of 1986 to administer and manage the Care for Retired Police  
11 Dogs Program. The Illinois State Police shall select the  
12 not-for-profit corporation through a competitive grant award  
13 process. The Not-for-profit corporation must meet all of the  
14 following criteria:

15 (1) Be dedicated to the protection or care of retired  
16 police dogs.

17 (2) Be exempt from taxation under Section 501(a) of the  
18 Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in Section  
19 501(c)(3) of that Code.

20 (3) Have maintained such tax-exempt status for at least 5  
21 years.

22 (4) Agree to be subject to review and audit at the  
23 discretion of the Auditor General in order to ensure accurate  
24 accounting and disbursement of State funds.

1           (5) Demonstrate the ability to effectively and efficiently  
2 disseminate information and to assist former handlers and  
3 adopters of retired police dogs in complying with this Act.

4           Section 25. Funding.

5           (a) From appropriations made by the General Assembly to  
6 the Illinois State Police for implementation of this Act, the  
7 Illinois State Police shall make grants to the not-for-profit  
8 corporation contracted by the Illinois State Police under  
9 Section 20 to be the disbursing authority for the Care for  
10 Retired Police Dogs Program. These funds must be disbursed to  
11 the former handler or the adopter of a retired police dog that  
12 served for 5 years or more as a police dog upon receipt of:

13           (1) valid documentation from the law enforcement  
14 agency or correctional agency from which the dog retired  
15 which verifies that the dog was in the service of or  
16 employed by that agency; and

17           (A) that the dog served 5 years or more with that  
18 agency;

19           (B) documentation showing that the dog served a  
20 total of 5 years or more with 2 or more law enforcement  
21 agencies or correctional agencies; or

22           (C) that, notwithstanding the length of service  
23 requirements elsewhere in this paragraph, the dog  
24 served 3 years or more with one or more law enforcement  
25 agencies or correctional agencies, was injured in the

1 line of duty while serving with a law enforcement  
2 agency or correctional agency, and retired from the  
3 agency the dog was serving with at the time of the  
4 injury due to such injury; and

5 (2) a valid invoice from a veterinarian for veterinary  
6 care provided in this State to a retired police dog and  
7 documentation establishing payment of the invoice by the  
8 former handler or the adopter of the retired police dog.

9 (b) Annual disbursements to a former handler or an adopter  
10 to reimburse him or her for the cost of the retired police  
11 dog's veterinary care may not exceed \$1,500 per dog. A former  
12 handler or an adopter of a retired police dog may not  
13 accumulate unused funds from a current year for use in a future  
14 year.

15 (c) A former handler or an adopter of a retired police dog  
16 who seeks reimbursement for veterinary care may not receive  
17 reimbursement if funds appropriated for the Care for Retired  
18 Police Dogs Program are depleted in the year for which the  
19 reimbursement is sought.

20 Section 30. Administrative expenses. The Illinois State  
21 Police shall pay to the not-for-profit corporation, and the  
22 not-for-profit corporation may use, up to 10% of appropriated  
23 funds for its administrative expenses, including salaries and  
24 benefits.

1           Section 35. Rules. The Illinois State Police shall adopt  
2 rules to implement this Act.