

SENATE No. 2573

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)

SENATE, November 9, 2021.

The committee on Senate Ways and Means to whom was referred the Senate Bill allowing humane transportation of K9 partners aka Nero's law (Senate, No. 1606), - reports, recommending that the same ought to pass with an amendment substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 2573).

For the committee,
Michael J. Rodrigues

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An Act allowing humane transportation of K9 partners aka Nero's law.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 1 of chapter 111C of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the definition of “person” the following
3 definition:-

4 “Police dog”, a dog owned by a police department or police agency of the
5 commonwealth, or any political subdivision thereof, that is used by the department or agency for
6 official duties.

7 SECTION 2. Said chapter 111C is hereby further amended by inserting after section 9 the
8 following section:-

9 Section 9A. (a) EMS personnel shall provide emergency treatment to a police dog injured
10 in the line of duty and transport such police dog by ambulance to a veterinary care facility
11 equipped to provide emergency treatment to dogs; provided, however, that EMS personnel shall
12 not transport an injured police dog if providing such transport would inhibit their ability to
13 provide emergency medical attention or transport to a person requiring such services.

(b) The department of public health, in consultation with the Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association and the department of state police's K9 unit, shall develop policies and procedures for each region that include, but are not limited to: (i) appropriate training of EMS personnel to provide police dogs basic level first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and life-saving interventions, including, but not limited to, administering naloxone; provided, however, that nothing in this section shall authorize the provision of advanced life support care to a police dog; (ii) safe handling procedures for injured police dogs, including, but not limited to, the use of a box muzzle and response coordination with a law enforcement official trained in handling police dogs; (iii) identification of veterinary facilities that provide emergency treatment for injured police dogs; (iv) decontamination of stretchers, the patient compartment and any contaminated medical equipment after a police dog has been transported by ambulance or EMS vehicle; and (v) sterilization of the interior of an ambulance or EMS vehicle before being returned to human service, including, but not limited to, sanitizing all allergens and disinfection to a standard safe for human transport.

(c) The department may grant a waiver from this section if the department determines that compliance poses a safety risk to the public. The department shall develop regulations regarding applications and issuance of such a waiver.

SECTION 3. Said chapter 111C is hereby further amended by striking out section 21, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

Section 21. No EMS personnel certified, accredited or otherwise approved under this chapter, and no additional personnel certified or authorized under section 9, who in the performance of their duties and in good faith, render emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary

36 resuscitation, transportation or other EMS to an injured person, a person incapacitated by illness
37 or an injured police dog under section 9A shall be personally liable as a result of rendering such
38 aid or services or, in the case of an emergency medical technician or additional personnel, as a
39 result of transporting such person to a hospital or such police dog to a veterinary care facility, nor
40 shall they be liable to a hospital or veterinary care facility for its expenses if, under emergency
41 conditions, they cause the admission of such person or such police dog to the hospital or the
42 veterinary care facility.

43 SECTION 4. The second paragraph of section 58 of chapter 112, as so appearing, is
44 hereby amended by adding the following clause:-

45 9. The provision of care to an injured police dog by an EMS provider under section 9A of
46 chapter 111C.