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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
11/17/2015	.	
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The Committee on Criminal Justice (Clemens) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment**

Delete lines 45 - 110  
and insert:

(d) "Veterinary care" means the practice of veterinary medicine as defined in s. 474.202 by a veterinarian. The term includes annual wellness examinations, vaccines, internal and external parasite prevention treatments, testing and treatment of illnesses and diseases, medications, emergency care and surgeries, specialty care such as veterinary oncology,



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11 euthanasia, and cremation.

12 (3) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS.—The Legislature finds that:

13 (a) Law enforcement dogs have become an integral part of  
14 many law enforcement efforts statewide, including the  
15 apprehension of suspects through tracking and searching,  
16 evidence location, drug and bomb detection, and search and  
17 rescue operations;

18 (b) Law enforcement agencies agree that the use of law  
19 enforcement dogs is an extremely cost-effective means of crime  
20 control and that these dogs possess skills and abilities that  
21 frequently exceed those of existing technology;

22 (c) The service of law enforcement dogs is often dangerous  
23 and can expose them to injury at a rate higher than that of  
24 nonservice dogs; and

25 (d) Law enforcement dogs provide significant contributions  
26 to the residents of this state.

27 (4) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Care for Retired Law  
28 Enforcement Dogs Program is created within the department to  
29 provide a stable funding source for veterinary care provided to  
30 these dogs.

31 (5) ADMINISTRATION.—The department shall contract with a  
32 corporation not for profit organized under chapter 617 to  
33 administer and manage the Care for Retired Law Enforcement Dogs  
34 Program. Notwithstanding chapter 287, the department shall  
35 select a corporation not for profit through a competitive grant  
36 award process which:

37 (a) Is dedicated to the protection or care of retired law  
38 enforcement dogs;

39 (b) Is exempt from taxation under s. 501(a) of the Internal



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40 Revenue Code as an organization described in s. 501(c)(3) of  
41 that code;

42 (c) Has maintained such tax-exempt status for at least 5  
43 years;

44 (d) Agrees to be subject to review and audit at the  
45 discretion of the Auditor General in order to ensure accurate  
46 accounting and disbursement of state funds; and

47 (e) Demonstrates the ability to effectively and efficiently  
48 disseminate information and to assist former handlers and  
49 adopters of retired law enforcement dogs in complying with this  
50 section.

51 (6) FUNDING.—

52 (a) The corporation not for profit shall be the disbursing  
53 authority for funds appropriated by the Legislature to the  
54 department for the Care for Retired Law Enforcement Dogs  
55 Program. These funds shall be disbursed to the former handler or  
56 adopter of a retired law enforcement dog upon receipt of:

57 1. Valid documentation from the law enforcement agency from  
58 which the dog retired which verifies that the dog was in the  
59 service of or employed by such agency; and

60 2. A valid invoice from a veterinarian for veterinary care  
61 provided in this state to a retired law enforcement dog and  
62 documentation establishing payment of the invoice by the former  
63 handler or adopter of a retired law enforcement dog.

64 (b) Annual disbursements to a former handler or adopter to  
65 reimburse him or her for the cost of veterinary care provided to  
66 a retired law enforcement dog may not exceed \$1,500 per dog. A  
67 former handler or adopter of a retired law enforcement dog may  
68 not accumulate unused funds from a current year for use in a



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69 future year.

70 (c) A former handler or adopter of a retired law

71 enforcement dog who seeks reimbursement for veterinary care