STATE OF NEW YORK

10255

IN ASSEMBLY

May 15, 2024

Introduced by COMMITTEE ON RULES -- (at request of M. of A. Stern, Gandolfo, Bronson, Burdick, Clark, Epstein, Fahy, Gunther, Hevesi, Jacobson, Jean-Pierre, Jones, Kelles, Lavine, Levenberg, Lunsford, McMahon, Paulin, Ramos, Rivera, L. Rosenthal, Santabarbara, Sillitti, Simon, Stirpe, Thiele, Wallace, Woerner, Zebrowski, Zinerman) -- read once and referred to the Committee on Codes

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to providing for the care of retired law enforcement dogs

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 844 to read as follows:

§ 844. Care for retired law enforcement dogs. 1. Definitions. For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) "Retired law enforcement dog" shall mean a dog that was previously in the service of or utilized by a law enforcement agency or a correctional agency in this state for the principal purpose of aiding in the detection of criminal activity, enforcement of laws, or apprehension of offenders and that received certification issued by the division or by the division of state police attesting to the satisfactory completion of a police canine training program.

(b) "Law enforcement agency" shall mean any agency or department of any municipality, any police district, or any agency, department, commission, authority or public benefit corporation of the state employing a police officer or police officers as that term is defined in subdivision thirty-four of section 1.20 of the criminal procedure law.

(c) "Correctional agency" shall mean any place operated by the state, county or city of New York having primary responsibility for the supervision, protection, care, custody, control, or investigation of incarcerated individuals of the state employing police officers as defined in paragraph (b) of subdivision thirty-four of section 1.20 of the criminal procedure law or peace officers as that term is defined in subdivision twenty-five of section 2.10 of the criminal procedure law.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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(d) "Veterinary care" shall mean the practice, by a veterinarian, of veterinary medicine as defined in article one hundred thirty-five of the education law. The term shall also include but not be limited to annual wellness examinations, vaccinations, internal and external parasite prevention treatments, testing and treatment of illnesses and diseases, medications, emergency care and surgeries, physical therapy, veterinary oncology or other specialty care, euthanasia, and cremation.

2. The division shall establish a program for the care of retired law enforcement dogs and shall promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate such program.

3. The program shall cover the cost of veterinary care for retired law enforcement dogs for the remainder of the lifetime of such dogs.

4. In order to be eligible for the program, the handler or adopter of the retired law enforcement dog shall provide proof that the dog was in service as a law enforcement dog for at least:

(a) five years; or

(b) was taken out of service due to an injury to the dog; or

(c) was taken out of service due to the dog being trained in THC detection.

5. A handler or adopter of an eligible law enforcement dog shall be entitled to be reimbursed for the cost of veterinary care upon submission of a valid invoice from a veterinarian.

§ 2. The program established by section 844 of the executive law, as added by section one of this act shall be subject to an appropriation to the division of criminal justice services out of any moneys in the state treasury in the general fund.

§ 3. This act shall take effect April 1, 2025.