STATE OF NEW YORK

9531

IN SENATE

March 20, 2026

Introduced by Sen. MARTINS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance

AN ACT to amend the executive law and the state finance law, in relation to enacting the "veterinary care of retired law enforcement and fire service canines act"

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

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "veterinary care of retired law enforcement and fire service canines act".

§ 2. Legislative findings. 1. Law enforcement and fire service canines have become an integral part of public safety operations throughout the state of New York, including suspect apprehension, arson and accelerant detection, evidence location, narcotics and explosives detection, disaster response, and search and rescue operations.

2. Law enforcement and fire service canines provide an extremely cost-effective and invaluable service to the people of the state of New York.

3. The duties performed by law enforcement and fire service canines are often dangerous and result in higher rates of injury and long-term medical conditions than those experienced by non-working dogs.

4. Retired service canines deserve humane treatment and appropriate veterinary care after years of faithful service protecting the residents of the state of New York.

§ 3. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 236 to read as follows:

§ 236. Veterinary care of retired law enforcement and fire service canines. 1. This section shall apply to any dog formerly owned and used by:

(a) a state or local law enforcement agency; or

(b) a municipal or volunteer fire department or fire protection district within the state of New York for official public safety or emergency service purposes.

2. A state or local law enforcement agency or fire department that retires a service canine from active duty shall reimburse an individual who, pursuant to a written agreement with such agency or department,

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

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assumes ownership of such canine on or after the effective date of this section for reasonable and necessary veterinary treatment provided to such canine.

3. Reimbursement authorized under this section shall:

(a) be limited to usual and customary veterinary treatment that is not attributable to abuse or neglect and is verified by written receipts;

(b) not exceed two thousand five hundred dollars per calendar year; and

(c) not exceed ten thousand dollars over the lifetime of the canine.

4. The division of state police, in consultation with the office of fire prevention and control and the division of the budget, shall work with other state or local law enforcement agencies and fire departments to administer the reimbursement program established pursuant to this section and shall promulgate such rules and regulations as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

5. Expenditures for the reimbursement program established pursuant to this section shall be made from the retired public safety canine veterinary care fund established pursuant to section ninety-nine-uu of the state finance law. Moneys expended pursuant to this section shall be supplemental to, and shall not supplant, any other funds appropriated for the care of retired law enforcement or fire service canines.

6. The division of state police, in coordination with the office of fire prevention and control, shall submit an annual report to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, and the speaker of the assembly which shall include:

(a) the number of retired law enforcement and fire service canines receiving reimbursement;

(b) the total amount expended on such reimbursement; and

(c) any recommendations for improvements to the reimbursement program.

§ 4. The state finance law is amended by adding a new section 99-uu to read as follows:

§ 99-uu. Retired public safety canine veterinary care fund. 1. There is hereby established in the joint custody of the state comptroller and the commissioner of taxation and finance, a fund to be known as the retired public safety canine veterinary care fund.

2. Moneys in such fund shall consist solely of funds appropriated by the legislature for the purposes of section two hundred thirty-six of the executive law.

3. Such fund shall be a continuing fund and shall not lapse at the close of the fiscal year.

4. Expenditures from such fund shall be made only pursuant to appropriation and only for reimbursement of veterinary care and reasonable administrative expenses related to the program established pursuant to section two hundred thirty-six of the executive law.

§ 5. This act shall take effect on the first of July next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.