STATE OF NEW YORK

10793

IN ASSEMBLY

April 1, 2026

Introduced by M. of A. RA -- read once and referred to the Committee on Codes

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. Short title. 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 and intent. The legislature finds that law enforcement and fire service canines have become an integral part of public safety operations throughout the state, including suspect apprehension, arson and accelerant detection, evidence location, narcotics and explosives detection, disaster response, and search and rescue operations. These working canines provide an extremely cost-effective and invaluable service to the people of the state. 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. This legislation is necessary to ensure that retired public safety canines receive the humane treatment and appropriate veterinary care they deserve after years of faithful service protecting the residents of New York state.

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

§ 844. Veterinary care for 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 or correctional services agency; or

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

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

LBD15238-01-6

2. The division, in consultation with the department of corrections and community supervision and the office of fire prevention and control, shall establish a program for the care of retired public safety canines and shall promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate such program.

3. Such program shall cover the cost of veterinary care for retired law enforcement and fire service canines from the retired public safety canine veterinary care fund established pursuant to section ninety-nine-uu of the state finance law with the following limitations:

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

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

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

4. The division, in consultation with the department of corrections and community supervision and the office of fire prevention and control, shall submit an annual report to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the minority leader of the senate and the minority leader of the assembly which shall include, but not be limited to, the number of canines receiving coverage of costs under the program and the total amount of costs covered.

§ 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 as the "retired public safety canine veterinary care fund".

2. Such fund shall consist of all moneys credited, appropriated or transferred thereto from any other fund or source. Nothing contained in this section shall prevent the state from receiving grants, gifts or bequests for the purposes of the fund as defined in this section and depositing them into the fund according to law.

3. Moneys of the fund shall be available, subject to appropriation, for veterinary care of retired law enforcement and fire service canines pursuant to section eight hundred forty-four of the executive law.

4. On or before the first day of February of each calendar year, the comptroller shall certify to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the minority leader of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the minority leader of the assembly, the chair of the senate finance committee, the ranking member of the senate finance committee, the chair of the assembly ways and means committee, and the ranking member of the assembly ways and means committee, the amount of moneys deposited into the retired public safety canine veterinary care fund during the preceding calendar year.

5. On or before the first day of February each year, the commissioner of the division of criminal justice services in consultation with the department of corrections and community supervision and the office of fire prevention and control shall provide a written report to the temporary president of the senate, the minority leader of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the minority leader of the assembly, the chair of the senate finance committee, the ranking member of the senate finance committee, the chair of the assembly ways and means committee, the ranking member of the assembly ways and means committee, the chair of the senate codes committee, the ranking member of the senate codes committee, the chair of the assembly codes committee, and the ranking

member of the assembly codes committee. Such report shall include how the moneys of the fund were utilized during the preceding calendar year, and shall include:

(a) the total amount of moneys deposited into the fund;

(b) the total amount of reimbursements made for veterinary care;

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

(d) a summary financial plan for the fund, including estimates of receipts and disbursements for the current and succeeding fiscal years; and

(e) any recommendations for program improvements.

6. Moneys shall be paid out of the fund on the audit and warrant of the comptroller on vouchers approved and certified by the commissioner of the division of criminal justice services, in consultation with the department of corrections and community supervision and the office of fire prevention and control. Any interest received by the comptroller on moneys on deposit in the retired public safety canine veterinary care fund shall be retained in and become part of such fund. No money from such fund may be withdrawn, transferred, or used by any person for any purpose other than as permitted by this section.

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