

SB0107



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB0107

Introduced 1/17/2025, by Sen. Javier L. Cervantes

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act
625 ILCS 5/3-699.8

Creates the Care for Retired Police Dogs Program Act. Provides that the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois shall contract with a not-for-profit corporation organized under the General Not For Profit Corporation Act of 1986 to administer and manage the Care for Retired Police Dogs Program. Provides that the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois shall select the not-for-profit corporation through a competitive grant award process. Provides that from appropriations made by the General Assembly from the Illinois Police K-9 Memorial Fund to the University of Illinois for implementation of the Act, the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois shall make grants to the not-for-profit corporation contracted by the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois to be the disbursing authority for the Care for Retired Police Dogs Program. Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. Provides that moneys from the Illinois Police K-9 Memorial Fund and for grants under the Care for Retired Police Dogs Program Act.

LRB104 07356 RLC 17396 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning retired police dogs.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Care
5 for Retired Police Dogs Program Act.

6 Section 5. General Assembly findings. The General Assembly
7 finds that:

8 (1) Police dogs are an integral part of many law
9 enforcement and correctional efforts statewide, including
10 the apprehension of suspects through tracking and
11 searching, evidence location, drug and bomb detection, and
12 search and rescue operations.

13 (2) Law enforcement and correctional agencies agree
14 that the use of police dogs is an extremely cost-effective
15 means of crime control and that police dogs possess skills
16 and abilities that frequently exceed those of existing
17 technology.

18 (3) The service of police dogs is often dangerous and
19 can expose them to injury at a rate higher than that of
20 non-service dogs.

21 (4) Police dogs provide significant contributions to
22 the residents of this State.

1 Section 10. Definitions. In this Act:

2 "Correctional agency" means a lawfully established State
3 or local public agency having primary responsibility for the
4 supervision, protection, care, custody, control, or
5 investigation of inmates at a correctional institution.

6 "Law enforcement agency" means a lawfully established
7 State or local public agency having primary responsibility for
8 the prevention and detection of crime or the enforcement of
9 penal, traffic, highway, regulatory, game, immigration,
10 postal, customs, or controlled substance laws.

11 "Retired police dog" means a dog that was previously in
12 the service of or employed by a law enforcement agency or a
13 correctional agency in this State for the principal purpose of
14 aiding in the detection of criminal activity, enforcement of
15 laws, or apprehension of offenders and that received
16 certification in obedience and apprehension work from a
17 certifying organization, such as the National Police Canine
18 Association, Inc., or other certifying organization.

19 "Veterinarian" has the same meaning as in Section 3 of the
20 Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act of 2004.

21 "Veterinary care" means the practice, by a veterinarian,
22 of veterinary medicine as defined in Section 3 of the
23 Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act of 2004. The term
24 includes annual wellness examinations, vaccinations, internal
25 and external parasite prevention treatments, testing and
26 treatment of illnesses and diseases, medications, emergency

1 care and surgeries, veterinary oncology or other specialty
2 care, euthanasia, and cremation.

3 Section 15. Establishment of program. The Care for Retired
4 Police Dogs Program is created within the University of
5 Illinois to provide a stable funding source for the veterinary
6 care for retired police dogs.

7 Section 20. Administration. The Board of Trustees of the
8 University of Illinois shall contract with a not-for-profit
9 corporation organized under Article 2 of the General Not For
10 Profit Corporation Act of 1986 to administer and manage the
11 Care for Retired Police Dogs Program. The Board of Trustees of
12 the University of Illinois shall select the not-for-profit
13 corporation through a competitive grant award process. The
14 not-for-profit corporation must meet all of the following
15 criteria:

16 (1) Be dedicated to the protection or care of retired
17 police dogs.

18 (2) Be exempt from taxation under Section 501(a) of
19 the Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in
20 Section 501(c) (3) of that Code.

21 (3) Have maintained such tax-exempt status for at
22 least 5 years.

23 (4) Agree to be subject to review and audit at the
24 discretion of the Auditor General in order to ensure

1 accurate accounting and disbursement of State funds.

2 (5) Demonstrate the ability to effectively and
3 efficiently disseminate information and to assist former
4 handlers and adopters of retired police dogs in complying
5 with this Act.

6 Section 25. Funding.

7 (a) From appropriations made by the General Assembly from
8 the Illinois Police K-9 Memorial Fund to the University of
9 Illinois for implementation of this Act, the Board of Trustees
10 of the University of Illinois shall make grants to the
11 not-for-profit corporation contracted by the Board of Trustees
12 of the University of Illinois under Section 20 to be the
13 disbursing authority for the Care for Retired Police Dogs
14 Program. These funds must be disbursed to the former handler
15 or the adopter of a retired police dog that served for 5 years
16 or more as a police dog upon receipt of:

17 (1) valid documentation from the law enforcement
18 agency or correctional agency from which the dog retired
19 which verifies that the dog was in the service of or
20 employed by that agency; and

21 (A) that the dog served 5 years or more with that
22 agency;

23 (B) documentation showing that the dog served a
24 total of 5 years or more with 2 or more law enforcement
25 agencies or correctional agencies; or

1 (C) that, notwithstanding the length of service
2 requirements elsewhere in this paragraph, the dog
3 served 3 years or more with one or more law enforcement
4 agencies or correctional agencies, was injured in the
5 line of duty while serving with a law enforcement
6 agency or correctional agency, and retired from the
7 agency the dog was serving with at the time of the
8 injury due to such injury; and

9 (2) a valid invoice from a veterinarian for veterinary
10 care provided in this State to a retired police dog and
11 documentation establishing payment of the invoice by the
12 former handler or the adopter of the retired police dog.

13 (b) Annual disbursements to a former handler or an adopter
14 to reimburse him or her for the cost of the retired police
15 dog's veterinary care may not exceed \$1,500 per dog. A former
16 handler or an adopter of a retired police dog may not
17 accumulate unused funds from a current year for use in a future
18 year.

19 (c) A former handler or an adopter of a retired police dog
20 who seeks reimbursement for veterinary care may not receive
21 reimbursement if funds appropriated for the Care for Retired
22 Police Dogs Program are depleted in the year for which the
23 reimbursement is sought.

24 Section 30. Administrative expenses. The University of
25 Illinois shall pay to the not-for-profit corporation, and the

1 not-for-profit corporation may use, up to 10% of appropriated
2 funds for its administrative expenses, including salaries and
3 benefits.

4 Section 35. Rules. The University of Illinois shall adopt
5 rules to implement this Act.

6 Section 90. The Illinois Vehicle Code is amended by
7 changing Section 3-699.8 as follows:

8 (625 ILCS 5/3-699.8)

9 Sec. 3-699.8. Illinois Police K-9 Memorial Plates.

10 (a) The Secretary, upon receipt of all applicable fees and
11 applications made in the form prescribed by the Secretary, may
12 issue special registration plates designated as Illinois
13 Police K-9 Memorial license plates. The special plates issued
14 under this Section shall be affixed only to passenger vehicles
15 of the first division, motorcycles, autocycles, or motor
16 vehicles of the second division weighing not more than 8,000
17 pounds. Plates issued under this Section shall expire
18 according to the multi-year procedure established by Section
19 3-414.1 of this Code.

20 (b) The design and color of the plates is wholly within the
21 discretion of the Secretary. The Secretary may allow the
22 plates to be issued as vanity plates or personalized under
23 Section 3-405.1 of the Code. Appropriate documentation, as

1 determined by the Secretary, shall accompany each application.
2 The Secretary shall prescribe stickers or decals as provided
3 under Section 3-412 of this Code.

4 (c) An applicant shall be charged a \$40 fee for original
5 issuance in addition to the applicable registration fee. Of
6 this additional fee, \$15 shall be deposited into the Secretary
7 of State Special License Plate Fund and \$25 shall be deposited
8 into the Illinois Police K-9 Memorial Fund. For each
9 registration renewal period, a \$27 fee, in addition to the
10 appropriate registration fee, shall be charged. Of this
11 additional fee, \$2 shall be deposited into the Secretary of
12 State Special License Plate Fund and \$25 shall be deposited
13 into the Illinois Police K-9 Memorial Fund.

14 (d) The Illinois Police K-9 Memorial Fund is created as a
15 special fund in the State treasury. All moneys in the Illinois
16 Police K-9 Memorial Fund shall be paid, subject to
17 appropriation by the General Assembly and distribution by the
18 Secretary, as grants to the Northern Illinois Police K-9
19 Memorial for the creation, operation, and maintenance of a
20 police K-9 memorial monument and for grants under the Care for
21 Retired Police Dogs Program Act.

22 (Source: P.A. 103-843, eff. 1-1-25.)