To: Judiciary

MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION 2002
By: Senator(s) Hamilton, Robertson To: Judiciary

SENATE BILL NO. 2886

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE KILLING OF, INJURY TO, OR THE
ADMINISTERING OF CERTAIN SUBSTANCES TO SERVICE ANIMALS SUCH AS K-9
DOGS; TO ENACT PENALTIES THEREFOR; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

SECTION 1. (1) It is unlawful for any person to willfully and
maliciously taunt, torment, tease, beat, strike, or to administer,
expose or inject any desensitizing drugs, chemicals or substance to any
public service animal. Any person who violates this section is guilty
of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not more
than Two Hundred Dollars ($200.00) and be imprisoned not more than five
(5) days, or both.

(2) Any person who, without just cause, purposely kills or
injures any public service animal is guilty of a felony and upon
conviction shall be fined not more than Five Thousand Dollars
($5,000.00) and be imprisoned not more than five (5) years, or both.

(3) For purposes of this section, the term "public service
animal" means any animal trained to assist a law enforcement entity or
any public safety entity, including, but not limited to, dogs certified
by the Mississippi Law Enforcement K-9 Association as a "Bomb Dog",
"Patrol Dog", "Drug Dog", "Arson Dog", "Tracking Dog", "Search and
Rescue Dog", or "Cadaver Dog".

(4) Any person guilty of violating subsection (2) of this section
shall also be required to make restitution to the law enforcement agency
or owner aggrieved thereby.

SECTION 2. This act shall be codified as Section 47-21-23,

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SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2002.