

By: Senator(s) Burton

To: Judiciary

SENATE BILL NO. 2920

1 AN ACT TO MAKE IT UNLAWFUL TO WILLFULLY HARM OR KILL ANY
2 PUBLIC SERVICE ANIMAL; TO PROVIDE CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND REQUIRE
3 RESTITUTION FOR VIOLATION OF THIS ACT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** (1) It is unlawful for any person to willfully
6 and maliciously taunt, torment, tease, beat, strike, or administer
7 or subject any desensitizing drugs, chemicals or substance to any
8 public service animal; and any person who violated this section is
9 guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be
10 fined not more than Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) and be
11 imprisoned not more than five (5) days or both.

12 (2) Any person who, without just cause, purposely kills or
13 injures any public service animal is guilty of a felony and upon
14 conviction shall be fined not more than Five Thousand Dollars
15 (\$5,000.00) and be imprisoned not more than five (5) years or
16 both.

17 (3) For purposes of this section, the words "public service
18 animal" shall mean any animal, including, but not limited to,
19 canines (K-9 dogs) trained to assist a law enforcement or any
20 public safety entity; including, but not limited to, dogs
21 certified by the Mississippi Law Enforcement K-9 Association as
22 "Bomb Dog," "Patrol Dog," "Drug Dog," "Arson Dog," "Search and
23 Rescue Dog" and "Cadaver Dog."

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



27 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
28 and after July 1, 2002.

