

By: Representatives Robinson (84th), Fleming To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 1120
(As Passed the House)

1 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE KILLING OF, INJURY TO, OR THE
2 ADMINISTERING OF CERTAIN SUBSTANCES TO SERVICE ANIMALS SUCH AS K-9
3 DOGS; TO ENACT PENALTIES THEREFOR; 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 and
6 maliciously taunt, torment, tease, beat, strike, or to administer,
7 expose or inject any desensitizing drugs, chemicals or substance to any
8 public service animal. Any person who violates this section is guilty
9 of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not more
10 than Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) and be imprisoned not more than five
11 (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 both.

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

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

25 (5) The provisions of this section shall not apply to the lawful
26 practice of veterinary medicine.



27 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
28 and after July 1, 2003.

