

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

HOUSE BILL NO. 1120
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE KILLING OF, INJURY TO, OR THE
2 ADMINISTERING OF CERTAIN SUBSTANCES TO PUBLIC SERVICE ANIMALS; TO
3 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 and used to assist a law enforcement
18 agency, public safety entity or search and rescue agency.

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

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

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

