

By: Senator(s) Hill

To: Accountability,
Efficiency, Transparency

SENATE BILL NO. 2050

1 AN ACT TO ENACT THE "SERVICE CANINE PROTECTION ACT OF 2024";
2 TO DEFINE TERMS; TO REQUIRE EACH CANINE UNIT TO EQUIP ITS CANINE
3 VEHICLES WITH A HEAT ALARM SYSTEM; TO REQUIRE EACH CANINE UNIT TO
4 ADOPT A WRITTEN PROTOCOL; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** This act shall be known and may be cited as the
7 "Service Canine Protection Act of 2024."

8 **SECTION 2.** For purposes of this act, the following words
9 shall have the meanings ascribed herein unless the context
10 otherwise requires:

11 (a) "Canine unit" means a canine handler who is a law
12 enforcement officer or firefighter, a service canine trained to
13 assist a law enforcement officer or firefighter in the performance
14 of the officer or firefighter's official duties, and any law
15 enforcement officer or firefighter who is not a canine handler but
16 is assigned to the canine unit.

17 (b) "Canine vehicle" means a vehicle assigned to a
18 canine unit for the transport of service canines in the
19 performance of the service canine's official duties.



20 (c) "Firefighter" means an individual who is trained
21 for the prevention and control of loss of life and property from
22 fire or other emergencies, who is assigned to firefighting
23 activity by the state or a political subdivision, and is required
24 to respond to alarms and perform emergency actions at the location
25 of a fire, hazardous materials or other emergency incident. The
26 term "firefighter" includes an individual who is a member of a
27 volunteer fire department that is a political subdivision.

28 (d) "Heat alarm system" means a temperature monitoring
29 system for a canine vehicle.

30 (e) "Law enforcement officer" shall have the same
31 meaning as defined in Section 45-6-3(c).

32 (f) "Service canine" means a canine trained to assist
33 in search and rescue or law enforcement activities.

34 **SECTION 3.** (1) Each canine unit shall equip its canine
35 vehicles with a heat alarm system. At a minimum, the heat alarm
36 system shall:

37 (a) Monitor vital components of the canine vehicle,
38 including cabin temperature and vehicle battery voltage;

39 (b) Activate the canine vehicle's sirens, horn and
40 light bar if an alarm condition is detected; and

41 (c) Open at least one of the canine vehicle's windows
42 if an alarm condition is detected.

43 (2) Each canine unit shall adopt a written protocol that
44 requires:



45 (a) Daily checks that the heat alarm system is engaged
46 and functioning properly;

47 (b) Regular maintenance of the heat alarm system; and

48 (c) End-of-shift or end-of-day procedures to ensure
49 that no service canine is left in a canine vehicle at the end of a
50 shift or the end of the day.

51 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
52 and after July 1, 2024.

