

## 2000 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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### HOUSE BILL NO. 672

Offered January 20, 2000

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 18.2-144.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to assault and battery on police animals; penalty.*

Patrons—Byron, Bryant, Dudley, Landes, Putney, Ruff, Sherwood and Weatherholtz; Senators: Hawkins and Newman

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

#### **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

#### **1. That § 18.2-144.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 18.2-144.1. Prohibition against assaulting, killing or injuring police animals; penalty.

It shall be unlawful for any person to *commit an assault and battery upon or* maliciously shoot, stab, wound or otherwise cause bodily injury to, or administer poison to or expose poison with intent that it be taken by a dog, horse or other animal owned, used or trained by a law-enforcement agency, regional jail or the Department of Corrections while such animal is performing his lawful duties or is being kept in a kennel, pen or stable while off duty. A violation of this section shall be punishable as a Class 5 felony *except that an assault and battery, without more, shall be punishable as a Class 1 misdemeanor.* The court shall order that the defendant pay restitution for the cost of any animal killed or rendered unable to perform its duties. Such cost shall include training expenses.

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