

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

*An Act to amend and reenact § 18.2-144.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to killing or injuring police animals; penalty.*

[S 1675]

Approved

**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 killing or injuring police animals; penalty.**

*It shall be is* unlawful for any person to 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~~ *its* lawful duties or is being kept in a kennel, pen, or stable while off duty. A violation of this section ~~shall be~~ *is* punishable as a Class 5 felony *and the sentence imposed shall include a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of six months. Such punishment shall be separate and apart from, and shall be made to run consecutively with, any other sentence.* 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.

**2. That the provisions of this act may result in a net increase in periods of imprisonment or commitment. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation is \$0 for periods of imprisonment in state adult correctional facilities and cannot be determined for periods of commitment to the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice.**