Overview

This bill provides criminal penalties for persons who kill or harm a search and rescue dog when the dog is engaged in search and rescue duties or under the custody and control of a trained handler.

1 Killing or harming a public safety dog.

   Subd. 1. Felony. Makes it a felony to cause, intentionally and without justification, the death of a search and rescue dog that is involved in search and rescue duties or is under the custody or control of a trained handler. Current law makes it a felony to commit the same act against a police dog or arson dog.

   Subd. 2. Gross misdemeanor. Makes it a gross misdemeanor to cause, intentionally and without justification, substantial or great bodily harm to a search and rescue dog that is involved in search and rescue duties or is under the custody or control of a trained handler. Current law makes it a gross misdemeanor to commit the same act against a police dog or arson dog.

   Subd. 3. Definitions. Defines "search and rescue dog to mean a dog that is trained to locate lost or missing persons, victims of natural or man-made disasters, and human bodies. Also relocates definitions in the current law to this subdivision.

2 Effective date. August 1, 1999, for crimes committed on or after that date.