

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Care
5 for Retired Police Dogs Program Act.

6 Section 5. General Assembly findings. The General Assembly
7 finds that:

8 (1) police dogs are an integral part of many law
9 enforcement and correctional efforts statewide, including
10 the apprehension of suspects through tracking and
11 searching, evidence location, drug and bomb detection, and
12 search and rescue operations;

13 (2) law enforcement and correctional agencies agree
14 that the use of police dogs is an extremely cost-effective
15 means of crime control and that police dogs possess skills
16 and abilities that frequently exceed those of existing
17 technology;

18 (3) the service of police dogs is often dangerous and
19 can expose them to injury at a rate higher than that of
20 non-service dogs; and

21 (4) police dogs provide significant contributions to
22 the residents of this State.

1 Section 10. Definitions. In this Act:

2 "Correctional agency" means a lawfully established State
3 or local public agency having primary responsibility for the
4 supervision, protection, care, custody, control, or
5 investigation of inmates at a correctional institution.

6 "Law enforcement agency" means a lawfully established
7 State or local public agency having primary responsibility for
8 the prevention and detection of crime or the enforcement of
9 penal, traffic, highway, regulatory, gaming, immigration,
10 postal, customs, or controlled substances laws.

11 "Retired police dog" means a dog that was previously in
12 the service of or employed by a law enforcement agency or a
13 correctional agency in this State for the principal purpose of
14 aiding in the detection of criminal activity, enforcement of
15 laws, or apprehension of offenders and that received
16 certification in obedience and apprehension work from a
17 certifying organization, such as the National Police Canine
18 Association or a similar certifying organization.

19 "Veterinarian" has the same meaning given to that term in
20 the Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act of 2004.

21 "Veterinary care" means the practice, by a veterinarian,
22 of veterinary medicine as defined in Section 3 of the
23 Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act of 2004. The term
24 includes annual wellness examinations, vaccinations, internal
25 and external parasite prevention treatments, testing and
26 treatment of illnesses and diseases, medications, emergency

1 care and surgeries, veterinary oncology or other specialty
2 care, euthanasia, and cremation.

3 Section 15. Establishment of program. The Care for Retired
4 Police Dogs Program is created within the University of
5 Illinois system to provide a stable funding source for the
6 veterinary care of retired police dogs.

7 Section 20. Administration. The Board of Trustees of the
8 University of Illinois shall contract with a not-for-profit
9 corporation organized under Article 2 of the General Not For
10 Profit Corporation Act of 1986 to administer and manage the
11 Care for Retired Police Dogs Program. The Board of Trustees of
12 the University of Illinois shall select the not-for-profit
13 corporation through a competitive grant award process. The
14 not-for-profit corporation must meet all of the following
15 criteria:

16 (1) It must be dedicated to the protection or care of
17 retired police dogs.

18 (2) It must be exempt from taxation under Section
19 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization
20 described in Section 501(c)(3) of that Code.

21 (3) It must have maintained such tax-exempt status for
22 at least 5 years.

23 (4) It must agree to be subject to review and audit at
24 the discretion of the Auditor General in order to ensure

1 accurate accounting and disbursement of State funds.

2 (5) It must demonstrate the ability to effectively and
3 efficiently disseminate information and to assist former
4 handlers and adopters of retired police dogs in complying
5 with this Act.

6 Section 25. Funding.

7 (a) Subject to appropriations made by the General Assembly
8 from the Illinois Police K-9 Memorial Fund to the University
9 of Illinois for implementation of this Act, the Board of
10 Trustees of the University of Illinois shall make grants to
11 the not-for-profit corporation contracted by the Board of
12 Trustees of the University of Illinois under Section 20 to be
13 the disbursing authority for the Care for Retired Police Dogs
14 Program. These funds must be disbursed to the former handler
15 or the adopter of a retired police dog that served for 5 years
16 or more as a police dog upon receipt of:

17 (1) valid documentation from the law enforcement
18 agency or correctional agency from which the dog retired
19 which verifies that the dog was in the service of or
20 employed by that agency and that the dog served:

21 (A) 5 years or more with that agency;

22 (B) a total of 5 years or more with 2 or more law
23 enforcement agencies or correctional agencies; or

24 (C) 3 years or more with one or more law
25 enforcement agencies or correctional agencies and was

1 injured in the line of duty while serving with a law
2 enforcement agency or correctional agency and retired
3 from the agency the dog was serving with at the time of
4 the injury due to the injury; and

5 (2) a valid invoice from a veterinarian for veterinary
6 care provided in this State to a retired police dog and
7 documentation establishing payment of the invoice by the
8 former handler or the adopter of the retired police dog.

9 (b) Annual disbursements to a former handler or an adopter
10 to reimburse him or her for the cost of the retired police
11 dog's veterinary care may not exceed \$1,500 per dog. A former
12 handler or an adopter of a retired police dog may not
13 accumulate unused funds from a current year for use in a future
14 year.

15 (c) A former handler or an adopter of a retired police dog
16 who seeks reimbursement for veterinary care under this Act may
17 not receive reimbursement if funds appropriated for the Care
18 for Retired Police Dogs Program are depleted in the year for
19 which the reimbursement is sought.

20 Section 30. Administrative expenses. The University of
21 Illinois shall pay to the not-for-profit corporation
22 contracted by the Board of Trustees of the University of
23 Illinois under Section 20, and the not-for-profit corporation
24 may use, up to 10% of appropriated funds each fiscal year for
25 the not-for-profit corporation's administrative expenses,

1 including salaries and benefits.

2 Section 90. Rules. The Board of Trustees of the University
3 of Illinois shall adopt rules to implement this Act.

4 Section 100. The Illinois Vehicle Code is amended by
5 changing Section 3-699.8 as follows:

6 (625 ILCS 5/3-699.8)

7 Sec. 3-699.8. Illinois Police K-9 Memorial Plates.

8 (a) The Secretary, upon receipt of all applicable fees and
9 applications made in the form prescribed by the Secretary, may
10 issue special registration plates designated as Illinois
11 Police K-9 Memorial license plates. The special plates issued
12 under this Section shall be affixed only to passenger vehicles
13 of the first division, motorcycles, autocycles, or motor
14 vehicles of the second division weighing not more than 8,000
15 pounds. Plates issued under this Section shall expire
16 according to the multi-year procedure established by Section
17 3-414.1 of this Code.

18 (b) The design and color of the plates is wholly within the
19 discretion of the Secretary. The Secretary may allow the
20 plates to be issued as vanity plates or personalized under
21 Section 3-405.1 of the Code. Appropriate documentation, as
22 determined by the Secretary, shall accompany each application.
23 The Secretary shall prescribe stickers or decals as provided

1 under Section 3-412 of this Code.

2 (c) An applicant shall be charged a \$40 fee for original
3 issuance in addition to the applicable registration fee. Of
4 this additional fee, \$15 shall be deposited into the Secretary
5 of State Special License Plate Fund and \$25 shall be deposited
6 into the Illinois Police K-9 Memorial Fund. For each
7 registration renewal period, a \$27 fee, in addition to the
8 appropriate registration fee, shall be charged. Of this
9 additional fee, \$2 shall be deposited into the Secretary of
10 State Special License Plate Fund and \$25 shall be deposited
11 into the Illinois Police K-9 Memorial Fund.

12 (d) The Illinois Police K-9 Memorial Fund is created as a
13 special fund in the State treasury. All moneys in the Illinois
14 Police K-9 Memorial Fund shall be paid, subject to
15 appropriation by the General Assembly and distribution by the
16 Secretary, ~~as grants to the Northern Illinois Police K-9~~
17 ~~Memorial for the creation, operation, and maintenance of a~~
18 ~~police K-9 memorial monument~~ for grants under the Care for
19 Retired Police Dogs Program Act.

20 (e) Notwithstanding the requirements of subsection (a) of
21 Section 3-600, if the Secretary of State has not received
22 2,000 plate applications to issue the special plate authorized
23 under this Section by January 1, 2028, then the Secretary of
24 State's authority to issue the special plate is nullified and
25 the plate shall not be issued.

26 (f) If the Secretary of State has not received 2,000 plate

1 applications to issue the special plate authorized under this
2 Section by January 1, 2028, then the provisions of this
3 Section, other than this subsection (f), are inoperative after
4 January 1, 2028.

5 (Source: P.A. 103-843, eff. 1-1-25.)