



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB3544

Introduced 2/18/2025, by Rep. Bradley Fritts

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act  
625 ILCS 5/3-699.8

Creates the Care for Retired Police Dogs Program Act. Creates the Care for Retired Police Dogs Program within the University of Illinois system to provide a stable funding source for the veterinary care of retired police dogs. Provides that the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois shall contract with a not-for-profit corporation to administer and manage the Program. Sets forth the required criteria a not-for-profit corporation must meet to be selected for a grant award. Subject to appropriation, requires the Board of Trustees to make grants to the not-for-profit corporation to be the disbursing authority for the Program. Provides that annual disbursements to a former handler or an adopter of a retired police dog to reimburse him or her for the cost of the retired police dog's veterinary care may not exceed \$1,500 per dog. Requires the Board of Trustees to adopt rules to implement the Act. Makes a conforming change in the Illinois Vehicle Code.

LRB104 09954 LNS 20024 b

1 AN ACT concerning retired police dogs.

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) Be dedicated to the protection or care of retired  
17 police dogs.

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

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

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

1 accurate accounting and disbursement of State funds.

2 (5) 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 that verifies that the dog was in the service of or  
20 employed by that agency; and

21 (A) that the dog served 5 years or more with that  
22 agency;

23 (B) that the dog served a total of 5 years or more  
24 with 2 or more law enforcement agencies or  
25 correctional agencies; or

1 (C) that, notwithstanding the length of service  
2 requirements elsewhere in this paragraph (1), the dog  
3 served 3 years or more with one or more law enforcement  
4 agencies or correctional agencies, was injured in the  
5 line of duty while serving with a law enforcement  
6 agency or correctional agency, and retired from the  
7 agency the dog was serving with at the time of the  
8 injury due to such injury; and

9 (2) a valid invoice from a veterinarian for veterinary  
10 care provided in this State to a retired police dog and  
11 documentation establishing payment of the invoice by the  
12 former handler or the adopter of the retired police dog.

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

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

24 Section 30. Administrative expenses. The University of  
25 Illinois shall pay to the not-for-profit corporation

1 contracted by the Board of Trustees of the University of  
2 Illinois under Section 20, and the not-for-profit corporation  
3 may use, up to 10% of appropriated funds each fiscal year for  
4 the not-for-profit corporation's administrative expenses,  
5 including salaries and benefits.

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

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

10 (625 ILCS 5/3-699.8)

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

12 (a) The Secretary, upon receipt of all applicable fees and  
13 applications made in the form prescribed by the Secretary, may  
14 issue special registration plates designated as Illinois  
15 Police K-9 Memorial license plates. The special plates issued  
16 under this Section shall be affixed only to passenger vehicles  
17 of the first division, motorcycles, autocycles, or motor  
18 vehicles of the second division weighing not more than 8,000  
19 pounds. Plates issued under this Section shall expire  
20 according to the multi-year procedure established by Section  
21 3-414.1 of this Code.

22 (b) The design and color of the plates is wholly within the  
23 discretion of the Secretary. The Secretary may allow the

1 plates to be issued as vanity plates or personalized under  
2 Section 3-405.1 of the Code. Appropriate documentation, as  
3 determined by the Secretary, shall accompany each application.  
4 The Secretary shall prescribe stickers or decals as provided  
5 under Section 3-412 of this Code.

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

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

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