



**152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE
REVISED**

BILL:	SENATE BILL NO. 176
SPONSOR:	Senator Lawson
DESCRIPTION:	AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 16 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO RETIRED LAW-ENFORCEMENT CANINES.

Assumptions:

1. This Act becomes effective upon signature by the Governor.
2. This Act requires that the Department of Safety and Homeland Security (DSHS), the Fire Prevention Commission (FPC), the Department of Correction (DOC), and the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) issue veterinary care reimbursements and promulgate regulations to create a reimbursement process for retired law-enforcement canines. An owner may be reimbursed up to \$1,500 annually for veterinary care expenses paid by the owner for the care of a retired law-enforcement canine. This Act does not apply to law-enforcement canines retired before the implementation of this Act.
3. There are an estimated 69 canines with varying years of active-duty service among the DSHS, FPC, DOC, and DNREC. The average active-duty service life span of a canine ranges from seven to nine years, which can vary depending upon the health and age of the canine. The State Police, on average, replaces around four canines per year and retire an average of between five and seven canines annually. Capitol Police projects the retirement of two canines within the next year. The FPC does not project any retirements in the near future. The DOC projects three retired canines in the next two to three years, and the DNREC has four canines within the average duty service life span.
4. For purposes of this fiscal projection, it is assumed that post-implementation of this Act, based upon the current potential for retirement, current age, and years of service of the canine, there may be between seven to nine canines eligible for retirement in the first fiscal year, and then subsequently between nine and ten canines eligible annually in Fiscal Year 2025 and 2026.

Cost:

	<u>Operating/Recurring</u>
Fiscal Year 2024:	\$10,500 – \$13,500
Fiscal Year 2025:	\$13,500 – \$15,000
Fiscal Year 2026:	\$13,500 – \$15,000

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Office of the Controller General