



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

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S.B. 271*

131st General Assembly
(As Reported by S. Agriculture)

Sens. Gentile, Yuko, Jones, Schiavoni, Cafaro, Skindell, Tavares, Thomas, LaRose

BILL SUMMARY

- Allows a law enforcement officer, under certain conditions, to purchase the police dog or horse assigned to the officer for fair market value when the officer retires in good standing from a law enforcement agency.
- Declares an emergency.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Purchasing a police dog or horse

The bill authorizes a law enforcement officer who retires from an equine or canine unit of a law enforcement agency in good standing to purchase for fair market value the police dog or horse assigned to the officer immediately prior to the officer's retirement if the officer receives approval from both of the following:

(1) The law enforcement agency served by the police dog or horse;

(2) The legislative authority of the municipal corporation or political subdivision served by the police dog or horse or, in the case of a police dog or horse serving the State Highway Patrol, the Director of Public Safety.¹

Currently, a law enforcement officer who leaves a law enforcement agency's equine or canine unit while the police dog or horse assigned to the officer is still fit for

* This analysis was prepared before the report of the Senate Agriculture Committee appeared in the Senate Journal. Note that the list of co-sponsors and the legislative history may be incomplete.

¹ R.C. 9.62(D) and (E).

duty forfeits the right to purchase the animal. However, a law enforcement officer may purchase a police dog or horse assigned to the officer for \$1 when a canine or equine unit is disbanded, or if the police dog or horse is injured in the line of duty, becomes disabled and is unfit for duty, or grows too old to be fit for duty.²

Under the bill, the sale of a police dog or horse by a municipal police department does not need the approval of the municipal board, officer, or director having supervision or management of the dog or horse, does not need to be competitively bid, and does not require the approval of the municipal corporation via an ordinance. Such approvals and bidding requirements apply under current law to the sale of municipal property with an estimated value of \$1,000 or more.³

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	02-04-16
Reported, S. Agriculture	---

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² R.C. 9.62(B) and (C).

³ R.C. 721.15.

