

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2191**

Chapter 94, Laws of 2012

62nd Legislature  
2012 Regular Session

POLICE DOGS

EFFECTIVE DATE: 06/07/12

Passed by the House March 3, 2012  
Yeas 95 Nays 0

FRANK CHOPP

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**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Passed by the Senate February 28, 2012  
Yeas 49 Nays 0

BRAD OWEN

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**President of the Senate**

Approved March 29, 2012, 1:18 p.m.

CHRISTINE GREGOIRE

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**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Barbara Baker, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2191** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

BARBARA BAKER

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**Chief Clerk**

FILED

March 29, 2012

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2191**

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AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2012 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      62nd Legislature                      2012 Regular Session**

**By** House Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness (originally sponsored by Representatives Rivers, Blake, Klippert, Hurst, Haler, Takko, Alexander, Hope, Harris, and Reykdal)

READ FIRST TIME 01/31/12.

1            AN ACT Relating to police dogs; amending RCW 16.08.040 and  
2 9A.76.200; and prescribing penalties.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 16.08.040 and 1941 c 77 s 1 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6            (1) The owner of any dog which shall bite any person while such  
7 person is in or on a public place or lawfully in or on a private place  
8 including the property of the owner of such dog, shall be liable for  
9 such damages as may be suffered by the person bitten, regardless of the  
10 former viciousness of such dog or the owner's knowledge of such  
11 viciousness.

12            (2) This section does not apply to the lawful application of a  
13 police dog, as defined in RCW 4.24.410.

14            **Sec. 2.** RCW 9A.76.200 and 2003 c 269 s 1 are each amended to read  
15 as follows:

16            (1) A person is guilty of harming a police dog, accelerant  
17 detection dog, or police horse, if he or she maliciously injures,  
18 disables, shoots, or kills by any means any dog or horse that the

1 person knows or has reason to know to be a police dog or accelerant  
2 detection dog, as defined in RCW 4.24.410, or police horse, as defined  
3 in subsection (2) of this section, whether or not the dog or horse is  
4 actually engaged in police or accelerant detection work at the time of  
5 the injury.

6 (2) "Police horse" means any horse used or kept for use by a law  
7 enforcement officer in discharging any legal duty or power of his or  
8 her office.

9 (3) Harming a police dog, accelerant detection dog, or police horse  
10 is a class C felony.

11 (4)(a) In addition to the criminal penalty provided in this section  
12 for harming a police dog:

13 (i) The court may impose a civil penalty of up to five thousand  
14 dollars for harming a police dog.

15 (ii) The court shall impose a civil penalty of at least five  
16 thousand dollars and may increase the penalty up to a maximum of ten  
17 thousand dollars for killing a police dog.

18 (b) Moneys collected must be distributed to the jurisdiction that  
19 owns the police dog.

Passed by the House March 3, 2012.

Passed by the Senate February 28, 2012.

Approved by the Governor March 29, 2012.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 29, 2012.