

## **HB 67 – Police, Fire, and Search and Rescue Dogs**

This bill amends s. 843.19, F.S., inserting “canine” wherever the word dog was used and increasing the existing Level 3, 3<sup>rd</sup> degree felony so that “any person who intentionally and knowingly, without lawful cause or justification, causes great bodily harm, permanent disability, or death to, or uses a deadly weapon upon, a police canine, fire canine, or SAR canine” now commits a **Level 3, 2<sup>nd</sup> degree felony** (s. 843.19(2)(a), F.S.). It does not increase this penalty for when such acts are committed against police horses, instead creating an additional subsection where these remain Level 3, 3<sup>rd</sup> degree felonies (s. 843.19(2)(b), F.S.).

Per DOC, in FY 17-18, 1 (adj.) offender was sentenced for the Level 3, 3<sup>rd</sup> degree felony under s. 843.19, F.S., with no offenders sentenced to prison. Given the available data, it is not known whether this offender committed the act against a canine as defined above, or against a police horse.

In FY 17-18, the incarceration rate for a Level 3, 2<sup>nd</sup> degree felony was 14.3%.

**CONFERENCE ADOPTED ESTIMATE: Positive Insignificant**

**Requested by: House**