

SENATE No. 2423

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act allowing humane transportation of K9 partners aka Nero's law.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 1 of Chapter 111C of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the definition of “person” the following
3 definition:-

4 “Police dog,” a specially trained dog owned or used by a law enforcement department or
5 agency of the commonwealth or any of its political subdivisions, and used in the course of the
6 department’s or agency’s official work, including a search and rescue dog, service dog,
7 accelerant detection canine, or other dog that is in use by the law enforcement agency for official
8 duties.

9 SECTION 2. Said Chapter 111C is hereby amended by adding after Section 9 the
10 following section:-

11 Section 9A. Ambulance services shall authorize their EMS personnel to provide
12 emergency treatment to a police dog injured in the line of duty, and transport such police dog by
13 ambulance, to a veterinary clinic or veterinary hospital equipped to provide emergency treatment

14 to dogs; provided, there are no person requiring emergency medical treatment or transport at that
15 time. Ambulance services shall develop written policies or procedures for the following:

16 (a) Appropriate training of EMS personnel to provide police dogs basic level first aid,
17 cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and life-saving interventions, including but not limited to
18 administering naloxone , developed in consultation with a veterinarian licensed pursuant to
19 chapter 112; the provision of advanced life support care is not authorized and requires treatment
20 by a veterinarian licensed pursuant to chapter 112;

21 (b) Safe handling procedures for injured police dogs, including the use of a box muzzle,
22 and response coordination with a law enforcement agency member trained in handling police
23 dogs, developed in consultation with a veterinarian licensed pursuant to chapter 112 and a law
24 enforcement police dog handler or trainer;

25 (c) Identification of local veterinary facilities that will provide emergency treatment of
26 injured police dogs on short notice;

27 (d) Proper and complete decontamination of stretchers, the patient compartment, and all
28 contaminated medical equipment, when a police dog has been transported by ambulance or other
29 EMS vehicle; and

30 (e) Sterilization of the interior of an ambulance, including complete sanitizing of all
31 allergens and disinfection to a standard safe for human transport before being returned to human
32 service.

33 SECTION 3. Section 21 of chapter 111C, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
34 inserting after the first paragraph the following paragraph:-

35 No EMS personnel certified, accredited or otherwise approved under this chapter, and no
36 additional personnel certified or authorized under section 9, who in the performance of their
37 duties and in good faith render emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation,
38 transportation, or other EMS, to an injured police dog, as permitted by section 9A of this chapter,
39 shall be personally liable as a result of rendering such aid or services or, in the case of an
40 emergency medical technician or additional personnel, as a result of transporting such animal to
41 a veterinary care facility, nor shall they be liable to a veterinary care facility for its expenses if,
42 under emergency conditions, they cause the admission of such animal to said veterinary care
43 facility.

44 SECTION 4. Section 58 of chapter 112, as appearing in the 2018 General Laws, is hereby
45 amended by inserting the following paragraph:-

46 9. Any EMS provider who provides care to an injured police dog as defined in Section
47 9A of Chapter 111C.