JUSTIN HOLLAND

TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Committee Substitute House Bill 1677

Rep. Justin Holland

BACKGROUND:

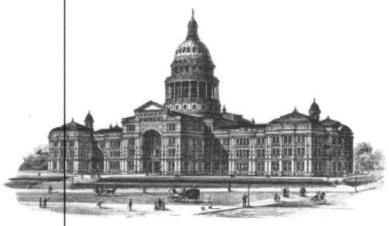
Police service animals are composed of law enforcement officers partnered with a highly-trained service animals. These animals are chosen for their unique qualities that they bring to law enforcement teams. K9 unites are most famously known for helping to pursue fugitives, searching for missing persons, and during narcotics or weapons detection. Horses best serve the police force with their calm temperaments and ability when navigating large crowds. Police service animals are essential to many police organizations and have become very popular throughout the country. In addition to the versatility of these service animals, they serve as watchful and sensitive guardians for their handler and members of the public. Many of these animals become so attached to their partners that they may rescue them from a firefight or a flaming building. Some of these service animals will even die in the line of duty in order to protect their human counterpart.

PROBLEM:

Despite their service and sacrifice of life, there is a lack of recognition on the Texas Capitol grounds honoring police service animals who were killed in the line of duty. Service animals are an essential part of law enforcement and should be honored and remembered as such.

SOLUTION:

The Texas Police Service Animals Monument is to be erected on the grounds of the Capitol Complex and adjacent to the Texas Police Officers' Memorial Monument to recognize and honor police service animals who were killed in the line of duty. The creation and preservation of this monument will finally recognize and honor the service animals that have saved the countless lives they served to protect.



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