

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 816 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY CONKLIN, HARKINS, HILL-EVANS, MARKOSEK, McNEILL,
MILLARD, PASHINSKI AND SAINATO, MARCH 14, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, MARCH 14, 2019

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
2 Statutes, in other required equipment, providing for heat
3 detection devices in emergency vehicles.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Title 75 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
7 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

8 § 4574. Heat detection devices in emergency vehicles.

9 (a) General rule.--Any emergency vehicle transporting a K-9
10 officer shall be equipped with a heat detection device.

11 (b) Heat detection device.--A heat detection device
12 installed in an emergency vehicle transporting a K-9 officer
13 shall, at a minimum:

14 (1) alert the vehicle operator that the vehicle has a
15 cabin temperature that is unsafe for the K-9 officer by
16 utilizing the horn, sirens and lights; and

17 (2) automatically roll down two windows when the vehicle
18 reaches an unsafe cabin temperature.

1 (c) Regulations.--The department shall promulgate
2 regulations governing the type, function, installation,
3 temperature limits and use of heat detection devices, taking
4 into consideration different requirements for different classes
5 or types of vehicles. The department shall have the authority to
6 regulate the performance of heat detection devices on a vehicle.

7 (d) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following
8 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
9 subsection:

10 "Heat detection device." An apparatus that measures the
11 temperature inside a vehicle passenger space, alerts the vehicle
12 operator of unsafe temperatures inside the vehicle and activates
13 vehicle electromechanical systems in order to cool the vehicle
14 to a safe temperature.

15 "K-9 officer." A dog used by the Pennsylvania State Police,
16 a police department established by a metropolitan transportation
17 authority operating under 74 Pa.C.S. Ch. 17 (relating to
18 metropolitan transportation authorities), a police department
19 established under the act of April 6, 1956 (1955 P.L.1414,
20 No.465), known as the Second Class County Port Authority Act,
21 the Capitol Police, the Department of Corrections, a county
22 facility or office or a municipal police department, fire
23 department, search and rescue unit or agency or handler under
24 the supervision of the department, search and rescue unit or
25 agency in the performance of the functions or duties of the
26 department, search and rescue unit or agency, whether the animal
27 is on duty or not on duty. The term shall include, but not be
28 limited to, an accelerant detection dog, bomb detection dog,
29 narcotic detection dog, search and rescue dog and tracking
30 animal.

1 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.