152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE

BILL:	**HOUSE BILL NO. 287**
SPONSOR:	**Representative Dukes**
DESCRIPTION:	**AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 16 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO RETIRED LAW-ENFORCEMENT CANINES.**

Assumptions:

1. This Act becomes effective upon signature by the Governor.

2. This Act allows for an owner of a law-enforcement canine retired from a police department of a political subdivision of the State of Delaware to be reimbursed up to $1,500 annually for veterinary care expenses paid by the owner for the care of the canine upon submission of documentation of allowable expenses for the retired law-enforcement canine from the Department of Safety and Homeland Security (DSHS).

3. Currently, an estimated 100 canines with varying years of active-duty service are among at least 21 of the State's local Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs). A canine's average active-duty service years can range between six to seven years, with the average life span being between 10 and 12 years old.

4. It is estimated that based on the potential for retirement, current ages, and years of service of canines, local LEAs retire an average of about 20 law-enforcement canines annually, with an additional three to four canines retired early annually due to unusual events such as injuries related to active-duty service, health issues, etc.

5. Therefore, it is anticipated that the DSHS may issue 24 $1,500 reimbursements annually.

Cost:

	Operating/Recurring
Fiscal Year 2025:	$36,000
Fiscal Year 2026:	$36,000
Fiscal Year 2027:	$36,000

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