

# State of Wisconsin



2025 Assembly Bill 239

Date of enactment:  
Date of publication\*:

## 2025 WISCONSIN ACT

AN ACT to amend 951.095 (title), 951.095 (1) (intro.), 951.095 (2) (b) and 951.18 (2m); to create 951.01 (4s) of the statutes; relating to: harassment of search and rescue dogs and providing a penalty.

*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

**SECTION 1.** 951.01 (4s) of the statutes is created to read:

951.01 (4s) "Search and rescue dog" means a dog that has been trained or is being trained by a state or nationally recognized search and rescue agency to locate lost or missing individuals and victims of disasters in search and rescue activities.

**SECTION 2.** 951.095 (title) of the statutes is amended to read:

**951.095 (title) Harassment of police and fire animals and search and rescue dogs.**

**SECTION 3.** 951.095 (1) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

951.095 (1) (intro.) No person may do any of the following to any animal that is used by a law enforcement agency or fire department to perform agency or department functions or duties or to a search and rescue dog:

**SECTION 4.** 951.095 (2) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

951.095 (2) (b) Any act that is necessary for the

training of an animal to perform functions or duties for a law enforcement agency, fire department, or state or nationally recognized search and rescue agency.

**SECTION 5.** 951.18 (2m) of the statutes, as affected by 2025 Wisconsin Act 28, is amended to read:

951.18 (2m) Any person who violates s. 951.095 is subject to a Class B forfeiture. Any person who intentionally or negligently violates s. 951.095, knowing that the animal that is the victim is used by a law enforcement agency or fire department to perform agency or department functions or duties or that the animal is a search and rescue dog, is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor. Any person who intentionally violates s. 951.095, knowing that the animal that is the victim is used by a law enforcement agency or fire department to perform agency or department functions or duties or that the animal is a search and rescue dog and causing injury to the animal, is guilty of a Class H felony. Any person who intentionally violates s. 951.095, knowing that the animal that is the victim is used by a law enforcement agency or fire department to perform agency or department functions or duties or that the animal is a search and rescue dog and causing death to the animal, is guilty of a Class G felony.

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\* Section 991.11, WISCONSIN STATUTES: Effective date of acts. "Every act and every portion of an act enacted by the legislature over the governor's partial veto which does not expressly prescribe the time when it takes effect shall take effect on the day after its date of publication."