

Rep. Xiarhos Announces Passage of “Nero’s Bill” By House

Bill would help to protect police dogs injured in the line of duty

BOSTON – State Representative Steve Xiarhos (R-5th Barnstable) is exceptionally pleased to announce that the House of Representatives voted today to pass House Bill 4331, commonly known as “Nero’s Bill”, to be engrossed.

“I am proud to be the presenting sponsor of Nero’s Bill in the House this session, and I am very happy that the House voted to approve the bill today,” said Xiarhos.

Nero’s Bill was inspired out of the tragic events of April 12, 2018, when Yarmouth Police K-9 Sgt. Sean Gannon was shot and killed in the line of duty by a violent criminal. His police dog, K-9 Nero, was also gravely wounded.

Due to current law, Nero was unable to receive emergency medical treatment at the scene. Fortunately, Nero was taken to a veterinary hospital by car, where he would survive and later recover from his injuries.

According to Xiarhos – who, prior to his election to the House, served as Deputy Chief of Police for the Yarmouth Police Department at the time of the incident – Nero’s Bill is desperately needed to make sure a similar tragedy does not happen again in the future. “Police dogs are heroes every bit as much as their human counterparts in law enforcement,” Xiarhos said. “It’s our job to protect them and to make sure injured service animals receive critical emergency medical treatment if needed. I am proud to always back our first responders.”

Xiarhos says he is hopeful Nero’s Bill will be passed in final form by the Legislature and sent to the Governor for his approval prior to the end of formal legislative sessions this summer.

###