

**609.597 ASSAULTING OR HARMING POLICE HORSE; PENALTIES.**

Subdivision 1. **Definition.** As used in this section, "police horse" means a horse that has been trained for crowd control and other law enforcement purposes and is used to assist peace officers in the performance of their official duties.

Subd. 2. **Crime.** Whoever assaults or intentionally harms a police horse while the horse is being used or maintained for use by a law enforcement agency is guilty of a crime and may be sentenced as provided in subdivision 3.

Subd. 3. **Penalties.** A person convicted of violating subdivision 2 may be sentenced as follows:

(1) if a peace officer, or any other person suffers great bodily harm or death as a result of the violation, the person may be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than five years or to payment of a fine of not more than \$10,000, or both;

(2) if the police horse suffers death or great bodily harm as a result of the violation, or if a peace officer suffers demonstrable bodily harm as a result of the violation, the person may be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than two years or to payment of a fine of not more than \$4,000, or both;

(3) if the police horse suffers demonstrable bodily harm as a result of the violation, the person may be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than one year and one day or to payment of a fine of not more than \$3,000, or both;

(4) if a peace officer is involuntarily unseated from the police horse or any person, other than the peace officer, suffers demonstrable bodily harm as a result of the violation, the person may be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than one year or to payment of a fine of not more than \$3,000, or both;

(5) if a violation other than one described in clauses (1) to (4) occurs, the person may be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than 90 days or to payment of a fine of not more than \$1,000, or both.

**History:** 1995 c 179 s 1; 2004 c 228 art 1 s 72