

- SUBJECT:** Equipping K-9 vehicles with heat alarm systems
- COMMITTEE:** Public Safety — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 6 ayes — Merritt, Frost, Burnam, Driver, P. King, Rodriguez
0 nays
3 absent — Lewis, Mallory Caraway, Vo
- WITNESSES:** (*On original version:*)
For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Rick Bousquet, Texas Humane Legislation Network)

Against — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Gary Bone, Abilene Police Department)

On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Ron Joy, Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Highway Patrol Division)
- DIGEST:** HB 243 would allow the Department of Public Safety, county sheriff's departments, and city police departments to equip K-9 vehicles with heat alarm systems. The alarm systems would have to activate when the vehicle stopped running or the temperature inside the vehicle became dangerous to any police dogs inside, and would have to sound an audible alarm, automatically lower the vehicle's rear windows, and alert the K-9 enforcement officer. Open-air vehicles used in connection with a K-9 law enforcement program would be exempt. Vehicles equipped with heat alarm systems would not have to meet the above standards before January 1, 2011.

This bill would take effect September 1, 2009.
- NOTES:** The substitute differs from the bill as filed by allowing the use of heat alarm systems rather than requiring them. It also removes a requirement that all law enforcement agencies who implement a K-9 program comply

with the bill's provisions not later than one year after beginning the program.