



SUPPORT H3563 - State Wide Dangerous Dog Bill (Rep. Hill)

Problem:

Massachusetts's residents need to be protected from dog attacks. All dogs are capable of biting. Laws tend to be enacted in response to specific dog bite events. Under these circumstances (high on emotion and short on time) it is difficult to create laws that are fair, effective and enforceable. There are currently no standards for determining what a dangerous or potentially dangerous dog is.

What the Bill Does:

This bill gives animal control officers throughout the state a much-needed tool to identify dangerous and potentially dangerous dogs. Owners are also on notice of what behaviors are considered dangerous or potentially dangerous. Once animal control officers have identified and categorized dangerous and potentially dangerous dogs, they must follow specific rules in order to keep them from endangering anyone. Owners are also given due process and a procedure related to having their dog declared dangerous or potentially dangerous. In general a dog only becomes a threat when it has an irresponsible owner. By including due process, responsible owners are not held paying the price for the irresponsible owners.

Why should you vote for this Bill:

This bill contains a well-researched solution to dog attacks. It has not been created as quick response to an attack, but rather as a preventative solution that has received extensive research and feed back from the canine experts throughout the country. This bill has the support of the American Kennel Club, the American Dog Owners Association and The Massachusetts Federation of Dog Clubs and Responsible Dog Owners and the National Animal Interest Alliance. This bill will put in place a law that is fair, enforceable and most importantly effective.

For More Information:

Massachusetts Federation of Dog Clubs and Responsible Dog Owners
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