

HCS HBs 1657 & 1588 -- BREED-SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

SPONSOR: Hicks

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Local Government by a vote of 9 to 1.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1657 and 1588.

The bill specifies that the General Assembly occupies and preempts the entire field of legislation touching in any way the control or regulation of specific breeds of dogs. However, a village, town, city, or county can still prohibit dogs from running at large or to further control or regulate dogs within its boundaries so long as the ordinance, order, policy, or regulation is not breed specific. Any village, town, city, or county with a breed-specific order, ordinance, policy, or regulation in effect on August 28, 2022, will have until February 28, 2024, to bring it into compliance with these provisions. After that date, all such orders, ordinances, policies, or regulations are unenforceable.

This bill is the same as HCS HBs 2241 & 2244 (2020).

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that breed bans result in forceful separation of dogs from their loving families. Breed bans also result in loving dogs being stuck in shelters because they cannot be adopted in certain cities. Breeds are blamed when it should be owners who are blamed. These local ordinances essentially prohibit consumers from being able to own the breed of their choice.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Hicks; Anne Cashel; Audrey Myers; Axle Vene; Bailey Danielle Forbes; Barbara Herzog; Bill Long; Candace Tracy; Carol Schmitz; Caroline French; Catharina Pot; Catherine Venli Jackson, East Newton Animal Coalition; Charles Cribbs; Christina Davis; Christy Carter; Crystal Burnett; Crystal Vail; Dale Shuter; Dawn Weber; Deborah Stephenson; Dwight Henderson; Erin Garrison; Glenda Bailey; Harriett Boggs; Jamie Bellamy; Janet Hanewinkel; Janice Colt; Jean Schumer; Jennifer Clark, American Kennel Club; Jennifer Dooley; Karyn Walden-Forrest; Kelly Johnson; Kenya Perry; Luann Frazier, Rn; Macie Dodson; Mandy Zatorski, Missouri K9 Friends; Mandy K9 LLC; Mark L Johnson; Mary; Miriam Keith; Morrissa Henley; Nakiya Lamb; Pam Chastain; Patricia Robinette; Rose Bonbrake; Sandi Stokes; Stacey Curtis; Steve Marshall Finkel; Sue Erbe; Summer Myers; Susan Unnerstall; Susie

Long; Taylor Spencer; Tonya Shanahan; Vicky Spies; Andy Morris; Chrystal Cribbs; Missouri Veterinary Medical Association; Bailey Forbes; Beth Sattler; Darrell Swofford; Debbie Lee Hardison; Dr. Anne Cath; Jackie Schudy; Judith Knobbe; Karen Meldrum; Missouri Federation of Animal Owners; Marcie Gragg; Abbie Knudsen, Missouri Coalition of Animal Care Organizations; Allisha Eckert, Furever Home Pet Sitting, Etc.; Cindy Marshall; Cynthia Ringkamp; Dorvell Tremain Stewart; Erin Nicole Burson; Jennifer Lipe; Jessica Defreeze, Muttz to Miracles Rescue and Rehabilitation Center; Julia Fox; Julianne Griffin; Katherine Fischer; Kathryn Starks; Kimberly M Brooks; Leisa Alexander; Melissa Trautman; Michelle Critzas; Nona Beth Wilkison; Rachel Bauman; Rachele Bishop; Sarah Platz; Steve Marshall Finkel; Bobbie Jo Conner; Brandie Colbert; Hans Gilgen; Jessica Albright; Joe Edlen; Katie Barnett, KC Pet Project; Susan Sontag; Shane Rudman, Animal Justice League of America; Brent Toellner, Best Friends Animal Society; KC Pet Project; Humane Society of the United States; American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA); Missouri Federation of Animal Owners; and Missouri Farm Bureau.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that pit bulls and part-pit bulls kill more people and other pets than all other breeds combined. States with the highest dog-bite fatalities have state laws prohibiting municipal-level breed-specific laws.

Testifying against the bill were Andrea Bauman; Angela Matusiak; Lacresha Carter; Melissa Ray; Arnie C. AC Dienoff; Nancy Hayes; and the Missouri Municipal League.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.