

HB 365 -- BREED SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

SPONSOR: Gregory (96)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Local Government by a vote of 8 to 5.

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.

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that these local ordinances essentially prohibit consumers from being able to own the breed of their choice. It is time to make Missouri the next state to outlaw these ordinances. Comprehensive dangerous dog ordinances cover all vicious dogs regardless of breed, and breed specific legislation has been proven to be ineffective on many levels. They provide no improvements to public safety, and they criminalize non-criminal behavior. They are also very subjective and costly to enforce. These ordinances have more to do with regulating people than dogs themselves. Most dog owners consider their pets family and this is a burden on residents who have to fight just to keep their pets. Mayors and city managers want the state to act on this so they will not have to.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Gregory; Arnie Dienoff; Barb York, Missouri Animal Husbandry Association; Brent Toellner; Erin Garrison, Animal Justice League of America; Missouri Veterinary Medical Association; Missouri Federation of Animal Owners; Katie Barnett, Kansas City Pet Project; Missouri Federation of Animal Owners; Best Friends Animal Society; Stray Dog Policy; Missouri Pet Breeders Association; American Society Of The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals (ASPCA); and Shane Rudman, Animal Justice League Of America.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that regulation of dogs traditionally is a municipal function that is best left to local officials who are better informed of local issues surrounding dogs.

Testifying against the bill was 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.