

HB 360 -- DANGEROUS DOGS

SPONSOR: Roeber

This bill requires any animal shelter or animal control agency to disclose to an adopter before relinquishing custody of any dog the nature and extent of an aggressive behavior demonstrated by the animal.

The bill also sets out levels of dog bites using the Dunbar scale in order to classify dogs as dangerous or vicious. Any dog deemed dangerous or vicious must be seized by an animal control authority and held for 10 business days. If the dog is deemed vicious, it will be humanely killed. If the dog is deemed dangerous, after 10 days, it will be released to the owner or possessor if he or she obtains a dangerous dog registration certificate and complies with restrictions set out in the bill.

The owner or possessor of a dog that has been impounded may file an appeal with the circuit court to contest the impoundment and destruction of the dog or any restrictions place on the animal. The owner or possessor must provide notice of such appeal to the animal control authority. The bill sets out the process for such appeal.

The animal control authority must issue and annually renew a dangerous dog certificate to any person who is the owner or possessor of a dangerous dog and who meets certain requirements. The animal control authority must inspect the premises of the owner or possessor before issuing the initial or renewing the certificate. The owner or possessor of a dangerous dog may not transfer ownership of the dog to any other person or entity. The bill also sets out penalties for violating the requirements set for dangerous dogs. The owner or possessor of a dog deemed vicious must also pay the person bitten or the owner of the animal bitten all medical and veterinary bills and lost wages incurred as a result of the bite.

The Department of Agriculture must create and publish on its website a map showing the location of each dog whose owner or possessor has obtained a registration certificate. The department must update the map at least yearly. Any animal control authority that issues a registration certificate must notify the department and provide contact information needed to create the map.