

HCS HB 744 -- ORDERS OF PROTECTION (Roberts)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Judiciary

This bill specifies that, upon motion by the petitioner and hearing by the court, an order of protection may be renewed up to a period of time not to exceed the lifetime of the respondent. The length of time for which the order of protection is issued or renewed also depends on whether the court makes specific findings during an evidentiary hearing that the respondent poses a serious danger to the physical or mental health of the petitioner or of a minor household member of the petitioner.

Additionally, under this bill, adult protection orders and child protection orders, full or ex parte, may be granted to restrain or enjoin an individual from committing or threatening to commit abuse against a pet. A protection order may include an order of possession of the pet where appropriate, as well as any funds needed to cover the medical costs resulting from abuse of the pet. "Pet" is defined in this bill as a living creature maintained by a household member for companionship and not for commercial purposes.