

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 2812

## 103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE DOLL.

6280H.011

JOSEPH ENGLER, Chief Clerk

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### AN ACT

To amend chapter 578, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the offense of unlawful dog tethering or chaining, with a penalty provision.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Chapter 578, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 578.019, to read as follows:

**578.019. 1. A person commits the offense of unlawful dog tethering or chaining if the person:**

**(1) Keeps a dog tethered or chained while the dog is unsupervised by a competent individual physically present on the property with the dog;**

**(2) Keeps a dog tethered, chained, or otherwise restricted by a leash, rope, chain, or other similar mechanism with which the dog does not have shelter from extreme natural elements, adequate food, or access to unfrozen potable water;**

**(3) Keeps a dog tethered or chained in an area that is unsafe or insanitary or not free from obstruction that may cause entanglement or injury;**

**(4) Keeps a dog tethered or chained for at least thirty minutes at a time, over a total of three hours in a twenty-four-hour period; or**

**(5) Inappropriately tethers or chains a dog with a tether or chain that is not proportionate to the size of the dog, that is less than fifteen feet in length, and that is not attached to the dog by a properly fitting harness or collar.**

**2. The offense of unlawful dog tethering or chaining is a class B misdemeanor.**

**3. The provisions of this section shall not apply to a person restraining a dog:**

**(1) Under the requirements of a camping or recreational area; or**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18           **(2) Temporarily during the act of hunting.**

19           **4. As used in this section, the following terms mean:**

20           **(1) "Animal control", the municipal or county animal control agency or other**  
21 **entity responsible for enforcing animal-related laws;**

22           **(2) "Tethering or chaining", the practice of tying, fastening, or restraining a dog**  
23 **to a stationary object as a means of keeping the dog under control. The term "tethering**  
24 **or chaining" does not apply to a dog being walked on a leash.**

25           **5. A law enforcement or an animal control officer, if the animal control officer**  
26 **has the authority, may make an arrest for a violation under this section.**

27           **6. An animal control officer may immediately seize a dog if the officer has**  
28 **reasonable grounds to believe that prompt action is required to protect the health and**  
29 **safety of the dog or others.**

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