



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 3304</b>		DATE: <b>3/25/2026</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Judiciary</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C. AC DIENOFF</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/25/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ASHLEY COLE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>COURTNEY HUDSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/25/2026 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ERIC HUDSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JANSEN SCOTT CHEEK</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/25/2026 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JENNY SWENSEN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/25/2026 12:52 PM</b>
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I support this bill in some form. My leashed dog and I were attacked by an off-leash dog in our neighborhood while we were on the sidewalk across the street from that dog's home. Nothing could be done to the dog when I filed a report. The owner isn't forced to send their dog for training or given any kind of fine. I had bruises on my arm despite multiple layers, and my dog had to be taken to the emergency vet for surgery. While I could pursue financial reparations, the attacking dog is still in my neighborhood. I no longer walk that route, but that owner has a lot that backs up to a highly trafficked sidewalk that has a chain link fence. That dog constantly stands at the fence and barks aggressively at adults and children that walk, jog, and ride bicycles in the area. There are numerous off leash dogs in my neighborhood. I've adjusted my walking routes several times and carry pepper spray, but off-leash dogs continue to be problematic and I'm running out of ways to adjust my routes. This bill would encourage individuals to follow existing leash laws.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MATT FREDERICK</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>417-532-2311</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>LACLEDE COUNTY SHERIFF's OFFICE</b>		TITLE: <b>SHERIFF</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>240 N. ADAMS AVE.</b>			
CITY: <b>LEBANON</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65536</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/25/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MERRY ANNE RUTLEDGE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/25/2026 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>CODY ATKINSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-590-0026</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>HUMANE WORLD FOR ANIMALS</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>722 W WALDO AVE</b>			
CITY: <b>INDEPENDENCE</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>64050</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/25/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>KORTNIE HUDDLESTON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/25/2026 11:14 PM</b>	

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

**This bill does not enhance public safety; it instead codifies punitive, reactionary policies that harm working families, erode due process, and target communities already facing systemic inequities.**

**The current law already addresses dangerous dogs. This bill expands mandatory seizure and destruction provisions while lowering the threshold for felonies. In doing so, it removes critical discretion from judges and animal control officers, replacing thoughtful intervention with automatic punishment. Progressive policy recognizes that mandatory minimums and automatic confiscation do not make communities safer—they escalate state power without addressing root causes.**

**This legislation disproportionately impacts renters, low-income homeowners, and people of color, who are already over-policed and more likely to face animal control actions. For many families, a dog is not just a pet but a companion, a guardian, and a source of emotional stability. The bill’s expedited destruction timeline—ten business days before an owner can even file an appeal—creates an impossible situation for people who lack access to immediate legal representation, transportation, or the ability to take time off work. This is not justice; it is state-sanctioned confiscation dressed up as public safety.**

**The bill also creates a troubling exception for “criminal activity,” barring both criminal liability and civil recourse when a person bitten was engaged in a crime at the time. While it attempts to limit the definition, the practical effect is to create a two-tiered system where the legal protections a person receives depend on a retroactive judgment of their conduct. This undermines the principle that all people deserve equal protection under the law, regardless of their circumstances or past actions.**

**A progressive approach to animal and public safety would invest in accessible training programs, low-cost veterinary care, secure fencing initiatives, and community-based mediation. It would ensure due process is meaningful, not an afterthought. This bill does none of that. It prioritizes punitive speed over fairness and expands the carceral system rather than addressing the conditions that lead to dog-related incidents.**

**I urge you to oppose this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MICHAEL DREYER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/25/2026 11:14 PM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>RICHARD MCINTOSH</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-257-0078</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>ANIMAL LEGAL DEFENSE FUND</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>612 EAST CAPITOL AVE</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/25/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SARAH BERRY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/25/2026 9:08 AM</b>	

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**HB 3304 expands the offense of keeping a dangerous dog by lowering the threshold for criminal liability and mandating seizure and destruction of animals under specified circumstances.**

**The bill raises procedural due process concerns.**

**It authorizes immediate seizure and provides for destruction after a short period unless the owner initiates an appeal. Because dogs are recognized as property, permanent deprivation requires a meaningful opportunity to be heard.**

**The structure of the bill places the burden on the owner to seek judicial review after seizure, which may present constitutional concerns depending on implementation.**

**The bill also imposes criminal liability based on a single unprovoked bite without requiring proof of knowledge or culpability. While public safety is a legitimate interest, expansion of liability without a defined mental state may create overbreadth concerns in application.**

**Additionally, key terms such as “without provocation” are not defined within the section, which may lead to inconsistent enforcement and raises vagueness concerns.**

**For these reasons, the bill would benefit from clearer procedural safeguards, defined standards, and consideration of mens rea requirements to reduce foreseeable constitutional challenges.**

**Legislative Notice:**

**The General Assembly is hereby placed on notice that HB 3304, by authorizing immediate seizure and expedited destruction of animals with limited pre-deprivation process, presents foreseeable procedural due process concerns under the Fourteenth Amendment and Article I, Section 10 of the Missouri Constitution. The absence of clearly defined standards for terms such as “without provocation,” and the imposition of criminal liability without an express culpable mental state, further create potential vagueness and overbreadth risks.**

**Enactment without additional safeguards and definitional clarity may give rise to constitutional challenges seeking declaratory or injunctive relief. This testimony is submitted to document that these concerns were identified prior to enactment and that the resulting risks were reasonably foreseeable.**

**Authorities:**

**U.S. Const. amend. XIV.**

**Mo. Const. art. I, § 10.**

**Mathews v. Eldridge, 424 U.S. 319 (1976).**

**Mo. Rev. Stat. § 556.061 (definition of serious physical injury).**