

HB 707 -- Service Dogs

Sponsor: Grisamore

Currently, any person who knowingly, intentionally, or recklessly causes substantial physical injury to or the death of a service dog is guilty of a class A misdemeanor. This bill removes these provisions and specifies that any person who, with reckless disregard, injures or kills or permits a dog that he or she owns or is in the immediate control of to injure or kill a service animal will be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

Currently, any person who knowingly or intentionally fails to exercise sufficient control over an animal he or she owns or controls to prevent substantial physical injury to or death of a service dog, or the inability to function as a service dog as a result, is guilty of a class A misdemeanor. The bill removes these provisions and specifies that any person who, with reckless disregard, interferes with or permits a dog that he or she owns or is in the immediate control of to interfere with the use of a service animal by obstructing, intimidating, or otherwise jeopardizing the safety of the service animal or its user is guilty of class B misdemeanor for a first violation and class A misdemeanor for a second or subsequent violation.

The bill repeals the provisions relating to harassing or chasing a service dog and specifies that any person who intentionally injures or kills or permits a dog that he or she owns or is in the immediate control of to injure or kill a service animal is guilty of a class D felony.

The bill removes current provisions allowing for a cause of action by an owner of a service dog to recover civil damages and specifies that any person who is convicted for violating these provisions must make full restitution for all damages that arise out of or are related to the offense. Restitution includes, but is not limited to, the value of the animal, replacement and training expenses, veterinary and other medical and boarding expenses for the animal, medical expenses for the owner, and lost wages or income incurred during the period the owner is without the services of the animal.