

HCS HB 1116 -- BREED SPECIFIC DOG LEGISLATION

SPONSOR: Hicks

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on General Laws by a vote of 15 to 1.

This bill specifies that a village, town, or city, including any home rule city, has the authority to prohibit dogs from running at large or to further control or regulate dogs within its boundaries if the ordinance, order, policy, or regulation is not breed specific.

The bill specifies that the General Assembly occupies and preempts the entire field of legislation touching in any way the control or regulation of specific breeds of dogs to the complete exclusion of any ordinance, order, policy, or regulation by any village, town, or city, including any home rule city, in Missouri and any existing or future orders, ordinances, policies, or regulations in this field must be null and void.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will stop breed discrimination in Missouri and help dog owners who have been disadvantaged by breed specific legislation.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Hicks; Best Friends Animal Society; Professional Kansas City Animal Shelters; Missouri Veterinary Association; Kansas City Pet Project; and Missouri Federation of Animal Lovers.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.