

HCS HB 1525 -- KEEPING A DANGEROUS DOG

SPONSOR: Shawan

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety by a vote of 9 to 1.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1525.

Currently, a person commits the offense of keeping a dangerous dog if he or she possess a dog that has previously bitten a person or domestic animal without provocation and then bites a person again. This bill changes the offense to include a dog that has previously physically injured a person or domestic animal without provocation and physically injures a person again.

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the definition of a dangerous dog should include physical injury, not just a bite, because dogs can be aggressive, especially with bicycle riders, and can charge and knock a person down, causing physical injury and, sometimes, thousands of dollars in medical bills. There needs to be a deterrent to dogs running loose.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Shawan; Alan W. Eubank; Barry Bean; Missouri Alliance For Animal Legislation; Brent Hugh, Missouri Bicycle And Pedestrian Federation; and Mark E. Langenfeld.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that there is a big issue with the use of the word "injury" as it is too broad.

Testifying against the bill was the Missouri Federation of Animal Owners.