

Legislative Analysis



DOG BITES: DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Mitchell Bean, Director
Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 4065

Sponsor: Rep. Jeff Mayes

Committee: Judiciary

Complete to 2-19-07

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4065 AS INTRODUCED 1-22-07

The bill would amend the Michigan Penal Code (MCL 750.66) to require a person whose dog bites another person to remain on the scene and provide certain information and assistance or face criminal penalties.

Under the bill, a person who had custody of a dog or a wolf-dog cross, and who knew or had reason to know that the animal had bitten any individual, would have to immediately do both of the following:

- Provide the individual who had been bitten with his or her name and address and, if the person did not own the animal, then the name and address of the animal's owner and with information, if known by that person, as to whether the animal was current on all legally required vaccinations.
- If the individual had been injured, either render reasonable assistance in securing medical aid; inform the nearest or most convenient police agency or emergency services provider that medical attention was required for the individual; or arrange for or provide transportation to the individual.

A person who knew or had reason to know that a dog or wolf-dog cross in his or her custody had bitten any individual would have to remain on the scene until the above requirements were fulfilled unless it was necessary for the person to leave the scene in order to secure medical assistance as required above.

A violation of the bill's requirements would be a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 93 days and/or a fine of not more than \$500.

Under the bill, "dog" and "wolf-dog cross" would mean those terms as defined in Section 2 of the Wolf-Dog Cross Act, Public Act 246 of 2000. There, "dog" means an animal of the species *Canis familiaris* or *Canis lupus familiaris*. "Wolf-dog cross" means a canid resulting from the breeding of any of the following: 1) a wolf with a dog, 2) a wolf-dog cross with a wolf, 3) a wolf-dog cross with a dog; and 4) a wolf-dog cross with a wolf-dog cross.

The bill would take effect April 1, 2008.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill would have no fiscal impact on the state and an indeterminate fiscal impact on local units of government. To the extent that the bill increased the number of misdemeanor convictions, it could increase local costs of misdemeanor probation supervision or jail incarceration for convicted misdemeanants, both of which vary with jurisdiction. Any increase in penal fine revenues could benefit local libraries, which are the constitutionally-designated recipients of those revenues.

Legislative Analyst: Susan Stutzky
Fiscal Analyst: Marilyn Peterson

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.