

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 525, As Amended

BY AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO DOGS; AMENDING SECTION 25-2805, IDAHO CODE, TO REMOVE A PROVI-  
2 SION REGARDING VICIOUS DOGS; AMENDING SECTION 25-2808, IDAHO CODE, TO  
3 PROVIDE A CORRECT CODE REFERENCE; AMENDING CHAPTER 28, TITLE 25, IDAHO  
4 CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 25-2809, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE A  
5 SHORT TITLE; AMENDING CHAPTER 28, TITLE 25, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION  
6 OF A NEW SECTION 25-2810, IDAHO CODE, TO DEFINE TERMS, TO PROVIDE THAT  
7 CERTAIN PEOPLE MAY PETITION TO HAVE A DOG DECLARED DANGEROUS OR AT RISK,  
8 TO PROVIDE INSTANCES OF JUSTIFIED PROVOCATION, TO AUTHORIZE A COURT  
9 TO IMPOSE CERTAIN ORDERS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR DANGEROUS AND AT-RISK  
10 DOGS, TO PROVIDE CONDITIONS FOR THE TRANSFER OF A DANGEROUS OR AT-RISK  
11 DOG, TO PROVIDE FOR WAIVER OF AN AT-RISK DESIGNATION, TO PROVIDE FOR  
12 PENALTIES, TO AUTHORIZE CERTAIN OFFICERS TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A  
13 DOG AND TO PROVIDE THAT CERTAIN PERSONS SHALL BE SUBJECT TO CIVIL LIA-  
14 BILITY; AMENDING CHAPTER 28, TITLE 25, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A  
15 NEW SECTION 25-2811, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR A VIOLATION;  
16 AMENDING CHAPTER 28, TITLE 25, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SEC-  
17 TION 25-2812, IDAHO CODE, TO AUTHORIZE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO ADOPT MORE  
18 RESTRICTIVE REQUIREMENTS UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS; PROVIDING SEVER-  
19 ABILITY; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.  
20

21 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

22 SECTION 1. That Section 25-2805, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby  
23 amended to read as follows:

24 25-2805. DOGS RUNNING AT LARGE -- VICIOUS DOGS -- PENALTY. (1) Any per-  
25 son, who, after complaint has been made by any person to the sheriff, who  
26 shall serve a copy of said notice upon such person complained of, willfully  
27 or negligently permits any dog owned or possessed or harbored by him to be,  
28 or run, at large without a competent and responsible attendant or master,  
29 within the limits of any city, town, or village or in the vicinity of any  
30 farm, pasture, ranch, dwelling house, or cultivated lands of another, or who  
31 willfully or negligently fails, neglects or refuses to keep any such dog se-  
32 curely confined within the limits of his own premises when not under the im-  
33 mediate care and control of a competent and responsible attendant or master,  
34 shall be guilty of an infraction punishable as provided in section 18-113A,  
35 Idaho Code.

36 (2) Any dog which, when not physically provoked, physically attacks,  
37 wounds, bites or otherwise injures any person who is not trespassing, is vi-  
38 cious. It shall be unlawful for the owner or for the owner of premises on  
39 which a vicious dog is present to harbor a vicious dog outside a secure en-  
40 closure. A secure enclosure is one from which the animal cannot escape and  
41 for which exit and entry is controlled by the owner of the premises or owner  
42 of the animal. Any vicious dog removed from the secure enclosure must be re-

1 ~~strained by a chain sufficient to control the vicious dog. Persons guilty of~~  
 2 ~~a violation of this subsection, and in addition to any liability as provided~~  
 3 ~~in section 25-2806, Idaho Code, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. For a sec-~~  
 4 ~~ond or subsequent violation of this subsection, the court may, in the inter-~~  
 5 ~~est of public safety, order the owner to have the vicious dog destroyed or may~~  
 6 ~~direct the appropriate authorities to destroy the dog.~~

7 SECTION 2. That Section 25-2808, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby  
 8 amended to read as follows:

9 25-2808. DOGS USED IN LAW ENFORCEMENT. Neither the state of Idaho, nor  
 10 any city or county, nor any peace officer employed by any of them, shall be  
 11 criminally liable under the provisions of section 25-2805~~10~~, Idaho Code, or  
 12 civilly liable in damages for injury committed by a dog when: (1) the dog has  
 13 been trained to assist in law enforcement; and (2) the injury occurs while  
 14 the dog is reasonably and carefully being used in the apprehension, arrest or  
 15 location of a suspected offender or in maintaining or controlling the public  
 16 order.

17 SECTION 3. That Chapter 28, Title 25, Idaho Code, be, and the same is  
 18 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-  
 19 ignated as Section 25-2809, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

20 25-2809. SHORT TITLE. Sections 25-2809 through 25-2812, Idaho Code,  
 21 shall be known and may be cited as the "Idaho Dangerous and At-Risk Dogs Act."

22 SECTION 4. That Chapter 28, Title 25, Idaho Code, be, and the same is  
 23 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-  
 24 ignated as Section 25-2810, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

25 25-2810. DANGEROUS AND AT-RISK DOGS. (1) For purposes of this act:  
 26 (a) "At-risk dog" means any dog that without justified provocation  
 27 bites a person without causing a serious injury as defined in this sec-  
 28 tion.  
 29 (b) "Dangerous dog" means any dog that:  
 30 (i) Without justified provocation has inflicted serious injury  
 31 on a person; or  
 32 (ii) Has been previously found to be at risk and thereafter bites  
 33 or physically attacks a person without justified provocation.  
 34 (c) "Justified provocation" means to perform any act or omission that a  
 35 reasonable person with common knowledge of dog behavior would conclude  
 36 is likely to precipitate a bite or attack by an ordinary dog.  
 37 (d) "Physically attack" means an aggressive action upon a person by a  
 38 dog which there is physical contact between the dog and the person.  
 39 (e) "Serious injury" means an injury to a person characterized by  
 40 piercing of the hypodermis or tearing of the muscles, veins or arteries,  
 41 or disfiguring lacerations that would cause a reasonably prudent person  
 42 to seek treatment from a medical professional without regard to whether  
 43 the person actually sought medical treatment.  
 44 (2) A petition for a court to declare a dog dangerous or at-risk may be  
 45 brought by:

- 1 (a) Any person who has been bitten or physically attacked by the dog;
- 2 (b) A parent or guardian of any minor who has been bitten or physically
- 3 attacked by the dog; or
- 4 (c) A county or city prosecuting attorney.

5 In such proceedings, it is not necessary for the petitioner to show that the  
6 owner, possessor or harbinger of such dog had knowledge of the fact that the  
7 dog would behave in a manner consistent with the definition of a dangerous or  
8 at-risk dog.

9 (3) No dog may be declared to be a dangerous or at-risk dog when at the  
10 time an injury or damage was sustained, the precipitating cause constituted  
11 justified provocation. Justified provocation includes, but is not limited  
12 to, the following:

- 13 (a) The dog was protecting or defending a person within the immediate
- 14 vicinity of the dog from an attack or assault;
- 15 (b) The person was committing a crime or offense upon the property of
- 16 the owner or custodian of the dog;
- 17 (c) The person was at the time, or had in the past, willfully tormented,
- 18 abused or assaulted the dog;
- 19 (d) The dog was responding to pain or injury or protecting its off-
- 20 spring;
- 21 (e) The dog was working as a hunting dog, herding dog or predator
- 22 control dog on the property of, or under the control of, its owner or
- 23 keeper, and the damage or injury sustained was to a person who was in-
- 24 terfering with the dog while the dog was working in a place where it was
- 25 lawfully engaged in such activity, including public lands;
- 26 (f) The dog was a service animal individually trained to do work or per-
- 27 form tasks for a person with a disability; or
- 28 (g) The person was intervening between two (2) or more animals engaged
- 29 in aggressive behavior or fighting.

30 (4) If a court finds that a dog is dangerous pursuant to the provisions  
31 of this act, in addition to any other penalty or liability provided in this  
32 act, the court may order the dog to be humanely put to death.

33 (5) If a court finds that a dog belonging to an owner is dangerous or at  
34 risk pursuant to the provisions of this act, the court in its discretion may  
35 order the owner to comply with one (1) or more of the following restrictions  
36 and requirements:

- 37 (a) When outdoors, the dog shall be confined to a secure, locked enclo-
- 38 sure from which it cannot escape and that unauthorized persons are pre-
- 39 vented from accidental entry, and for which entrance and exit are con-
- 40 trolled by the owner of the premises or owner of the dog;
- 41 (b) When off the property of the owner and not confined in a secure
- 42 enclosure the dog shall be kept on a secure leash by a competent adult
- 43 physically capable of controlling the dog. The court shall have the
- 44 discretion to order that the dog wear a muzzle capable of preventing the
- 45 dog from biting if the dog is in any public area in which contact between
- 46 the dog and the public is likely to occur;
- 47 (c) The dog shall be permanently identified by means of a color photo-
- 48 graph in a file maintained by the court and by a microchip used for the
- 49 identification of companion animals at the expense of the owner. Mi-
- 50 crochip registration shall be reported in a timely manner by the owner

1 of the dog to the local agency responsible for the control of such dogs.  
2 Upon demand, the owner shall provide access to the dog to any such agency  
3 or local law enforcement entity for the purposes of verifying microchip  
4 implantation; and

5 (d) The premises on which the dog is kept shall be posted with clearly  
6 visible signs stating "Beware of Dog" and may also require posting of  
7 signs with a warning symbol that informs children of the presence of a  
8 dog that may be dangerous. Signs shall be visible from the closest road-  
9 way.

10 (6) Any owner of a dog designated as a dangerous or at-risk dog shall  
11 notify any local agency responsible for the control of such dogs upon the  
12 transfer of a dangerous or at-risk dog to another person within thirty (30)  
13 days of such transfer. In order to transfer ownership of a dog designated as  
14 a dangerous or at-risk dog, the current owner shall notify the new owner of  
15 any order issued by a court pursuant to the provisions of this act and provide  
16 a copy of such order prior to such transfer. All sanctions and restrictions  
17 placed upon the keeping of the dog by the court shall transfer to any person  
18 taking custody of such dog and such person shall comply with all such sanc-  
19 tions and restrictions and be duly registered as the owner of a dangerous or  
20 at-risk dog by the local agency. Any owner relocating a dangerous or at-risk  
21 dog to another jurisdiction served by a different agency responsible for the  
22 control of such dogs, shall notify both the previous agency and the responsi-  
23 ble agency in the new location within thirty (30) days of such relocation.

24 (7) In the event a dog designated by a court as at risk does not sub-  
25 sequently act in a manner consistent with the definitions of a dangerous or  
26 at-risk dog, and providing that the owner and keeper of the dog has complied  
27 with all the provisions of this act, for a period of three (3) years, the re-  
28 strictions and requirements imposed by the court shall be waived and the dog  
29 shall no longer be classified as at risk.

30 (8) Any person who fails to comply with sanctions, restrictions or re-  
31 quirements imposed by the court pursuant to the provisions of this section  
32 shall be subject to the provisions of section 25-2811, Idaho Code.

33 (9) During the pendency of a petition to have a dog declared dangerous  
34 or at risk, a law enforcement officer or officer of a local agency responsi-  
35 ble for the control of such dogs shall be authorized to take the dog into cus-  
36 tody and place the dog in a suitable place at a customary and reasonable ex-  
37 pense to the owner pending final disposition of the charge against the owner.  
38 In lieu of keeping the dog at such facility, officers shall have the discre-  
39 tion to impose reasonable temporary restrictions upon the keeping of the dog  
40 at the property of the owner such that the dog is controlled and prevented  
41 from contact with others pending the final disposition of the petition. Upon  
42 notification that an action pursuant to this subsection has been initiated  
43 by an officer authorized to enforce such action against a dog, the relocation  
44 or transfer of such dog to another shall be prohibited and constitute a vio-  
45 lation of this act.

46 (10) Any dog that physically attacks, wounds, bites or otherwise in-  
47 jures any person who is not trespassing, when such dog is not physically  
48 provoked or otherwise justified pursuant to subsection (3) of this section  
49 or as set forth in section 25-2808, Idaho Code, subjects either its owner  
50 or any person who has accepted responsibility as the possessor, harborer or

1     custodian of the dog, or both, to civil liability for the injuries caused by  
2     the dog. A prior determination that a dog is dangerous or at-risk, or subject  
3     to any court order imposing restrictions or requirements pursuant to the  
4     provisions of this section, shall not be a prerequisite to civil liability  
5     for injuries caused by the dog.

6             SECTION 5. That Chapter 28, Title 25, Idaho Code, be, and the same is  
7     hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-  
8     ignated as Section 25-2811, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

9             25-2811. PENALTIES. For persons with knowledge of an order by a court  
10     issued pursuant to the provisions of this act:

11             (1) A person guilty of a first violation of section 25-2810(8), Idaho  
12     Code, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than  
13     two hundred dollars (\$200) and not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000).

14             (2) A person guilty of a second violation of section 25-2810(8), Idaho  
15     Code, within five (5) years of the first conviction shall be guilty of a mis-  
16     demeanor punishable by a jail sentence of not more than six (6) months or by  
17     a fine of not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) and not more than seven  
18     thousand dollars (\$7,000), or by both such fine and imprisonment.

19             (3) A person guilty of a third or subsequent violation of section  
20     25-2810(8), Idaho Code, within fifteen (15) years of the first conviction  
21     shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a jail sentence of not more  
22     than twelve (12) months or by a fine of not less than five hundred dollars  
23     (\$500) and not more than nine thousand dollars (\$9,000), or by both such fine  
24     and imprisonment.

25             SECTION 6. That Chapter 28, Title 25, Idaho Code, be, and the same is  
26     hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-  
27     ignated as Section 25-2812, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

28             25-2812. LOCAL REGULATION. The provisions of this act shall establish  
29     as state law minimum standards and requirements for the control of dogs that  
30     may threaten the public with injury and to provide for certain state crimes  
31     for violations of such minimum standards and requirements. Provided how-  
32     ever, this act shall not supersede or invalidate existing ordinances of lo-  
33     cal governments or prohibit local governments from adopting and enforcing  
34     more restrictive definitions of a dangerous or vicious dog, so long as the  
35     local government's definition of a dangerous or vicious dog allows for acts  
36     of justified provocation as described in section 25-2810(3), Idaho Code.

37             SECTION 7. SEVERABILITY. The provisions of this act are hereby declared  
38     to be severable and if any provision of this act or the application of such  
39     provision to any person or circumstance is declared invalid for any reason,  
40     such declaration shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of  
41     this act.

42             SECTION 8. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby  
43     declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after its  
44     passage and approval.