



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Terry Steele

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: [H.B. 14 of the 129th G.A.](#)

Date: February 4, 2011

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Rep. Sears

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Removes the term "pit bull" from the definition of a vicious dog

State Fiscal Highlights

- The bill has no direct fiscal effect on the state.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- If the bill leads to fewer dog-related violations involving pit bulls, counties and municipalities could incur lower costs for prosecuting and adjudicating such cases. There might also be a corresponding loss in court costs and fine revenue.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill removes the term "pit bull" from the definition of a vicious dog in current law. This means that, under certain circumstances, pit bull owners or keepers would no longer need to comply with requirements dealing with the transfer, confinement, restraint, and liability insurance coverage that apply to vicious dogs. Under current law, an owner or keeper who fails to comply with the confinement and restraint requirements is guilty of a fourth degree misdemeanor on a first offense and a third degree misdemeanor on each subsequent offense. Failing to obtain the liability coverage specified in law is a more serious first degree misdemeanor violation.

Eliminating these requirements as they apply specifically to pit bulls means that there will be fewer such violations and cases prosecuted and adjudicated in county and municipal courts. The Franklin County Municipal Court reported that, in calendar year (CY) 2009, there were 467 charges of "failure to confine a vicious dog" and 658 charges of not having liability insurance for vicious dogs. Of these charges, it is uncertain how many of these charges specifically involved pit bulls. Overall, the bill could reduce the volume of cases involving vicious dogs by some small degree, in turn lowering expenses for the courts that hear these cases. The bill could also have the effect of reducing the amount of court costs and fine revenue collected by these courts. Since a portion of these court costs and fines are forwarded to the state and deposited into the Victims of Crime/Reparations Fund (Fund 4020) and Indigent Defense Support Fund (Fund 5DY0), the state might also incur a negligible loss in revenue from this source.