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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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H.B. 241  
136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Bill Analysis

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. C. Thomas and Lawson-Rowe

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### SUMMARY

- Requires a dog to be held for a ten-day quarantine period following an attack in which the dog injures, seriously injures, or kills a person.
- Requires a dog warden or applicable law enforcement agency to conduct an investigation into the dog attack incident.
- If a dog warden's investigation results in the determination that it is not safe to have the dog remain in the community and the dog should be either humanely euthanized or that the dog should be trained and rehabilitated, requires a court to hold a hearing to determine the dog's disposition.

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### Quarantine after dog attack

If a dog injures, seriously injures, or kills a person, in addition to any applicable penalties in Ohio law, the bill requires the dog to be quarantined for a ten-day period at a suitable place for impounding dogs provided by the board of county commissioners.

#### Dog warden investigation

During the ten-day quarantine, the dog warden or applicable law enforcement agency must conduct an investigation into the incident that resulted in the injury, serious injury, or death of a person. At the conclusion of the investigation, the warden or the law enforcement agency must determine one of the following:

1. That it is safe to have the dog remain in the community without training and rehabilitation;

2. That there is probable cause that the dog injured, seriously injured, or killed a person without provocation and the seriousness of the attack warrants that the dog be released, but only on the condition that the dog be trained and rehabilitated; or
3. That there is probable cause that the dog injured, seriously injured, or killed a person without provocation and the seriousness of the attack warrants that the dog be humanely destroyed.

If the warden or the law enforcement agency determines that it is safe to have the dog remain in the community without training or rehabilitation, the warden or agency must release the dog to the dog's owner, keeper, or harbinger.

However, if the dog warden or the law enforcement agency makes a determination that it is not safe to have the dog remain in the community, the warden or agency must petition the municipal court or county court that has territorial jurisdiction over the residence of the dog's owner, keeper, or harbinger to order the dog to either be humanely destroyed or be released on the condition that the dog be trained and rehabilitated, as applicable.

### **Court hearing**

Under the bill, the court, within ten days after receiving a petition, must hold the hearing and issue one of the following:

1. An order that the dog be humanely destroyed, at the expense of the dog's owner, keeper, or harbinger, by a licensed veterinarian, the county dog warden, or the county humane society;
2. An order that the dog be released to the dog's owner, keeper, or harbinger; or
3. An order that the dog be released to the dog's owner, keeper, or harbinger on the condition that the dog be trained and rehabilitated.

If the court orders the dog to be trained and rehabilitated, the expense of the training and rehabilitation is the responsibility of the dog's owner, keeper, or harbinger.

The dog's owner may appeal the court's final determination as in any other case filed in that court.

During the pendency of a court's determination or an appeal, the dog that is the subject of the determination or appeal must remain in quarantine. While the dog is being held in quarantine, the cost of the quarantine is the responsibility of the dog's owner, keeper, or harbinger.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> R.C. 955.13; conforming changes in R.C. 955.222.

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## HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	04-17-25

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