

**As Introduced**

**136th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2025-2026**

**H. B. No. 241**

**Representatives Thomas, C., Lawson-Rowe**

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To amend section 955.222 and to enact section  
955.13 of the Revised Code to require a 10-day  
quarantine period for a dog following an attack  
and to require a court, under certain  
circumstances, to hold a hearing to determine  
the dog's disposition.

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**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That section 955.222 be amended and section  
955.13 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:

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**Sec. 955.13.** (A) If a dog injures, seriously injures, or  
kills a person, in addition to any applicable penalties in  
section 955.99 of the Revised Code, the dog shall be quarantined  
for a ten-day period at a suitable place for impounding dogs  
provided by the board of county commissioners in accordance with  
section 955.15 of the Revised Code. During the ten-day  
quarantine, the dog warden or applicable law enforcement agency  
shall 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 shall determine one of the following:

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(1) That it is safe to have the dog remain in the

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community without training and rehabilitation; 21

(2) That there is probable cause that the dog injured, 22  
seriously injured, or killed a person without provocation as 23  
defined in section 955.11 of the Revised Code and the 24  
seriousness of the attack warrants that the dog be released, but 25  
only on the condition that the dog be trained and rehabilitated; 26

(3) That there is probable cause that the dog injured, 27  
seriously injured, or killed a person without provocation as 28  
defined in section 955.11 of the Revised Code and the 29  
seriousness of the attack warrants that the dog be humanely 30  
destroyed. 31

(B) (1) If the warden or the law enforcement agency 32  
determines that it is safe to have the dog remain in the 33  
community without training or rehabilitation under division (A) 34  
(1) of this section, the warden or agency shall release the dog 35  
to the dog's owner, keeper, or harborer. 36

(2) If the dog warden or the law enforcement agency makes 37  
a determination as specified in division (A) (2) or (3) of this 38  
section, the warden or agency shall petition the municipal court 39  
or county court that has territorial jurisdiction over the 40  
residence of the dog's owner, keeper, or harborer to order the 41  
dog to either be humanely destroyed or be released on the 42  
condition that the dog be trained and rehabilitated, as 43  
applicable. 44

(C) The court, within ten days after receiving such a 45  
petition, shall hold the hearing and issue one of the following: 46

(1) An order that the dog be humanely destroyed, at the 47  
expense of the dog's owner, keeper, or harborer, by a licensed 48  
veterinarian, the county dog warden, or the county humane 49

society; 50

(2) An order that the dog be released to the dog's owner, 51  
keeper, or harborer; 52

(3) An order that the dog be released to the dog's owner, 53  
keeper, or harborer on the condition that the dog be trained and 54  
rehabilitated. If the court orders the dog to be trained and 55  
rehabilitated, the expense of such training and rehabilitation 56  
shall be the responsibility of the dog's owner, keeper, or 57  
harborer. 58

(D) The dog's owner may appeal the court's final 59  
determination as in any other case filed in that court. 60

(E) During the pendency of a court's determination under 61  
division (C) of this section or an appeal under division (D) of 62  
this section, the dog that is the subject of the determination 63  
or appeal shall remain in quarantine. While the dog is being 64  
held in quarantine, the cost of the quarantine shall be the 65  
responsibility of the dog's owner, keeper, or harborer. 66

**Sec. 955.222.** (A) The municipal court or county court that 67  
has territorial jurisdiction over the residence of the owner, 68  
keeper, or harborer of a dog shall conduct any hearing 69  
concerning the designation of the dog that is not humanely 70  
destroyed under section 955.13 of the Revised Code as a nuisance 71  
dog, dangerous dog, or vicious dog. 72

(B) If a person who is authorized to enforce this chapter 73  
has reasonable cause to believe that a dog in the person's 74  
jurisdiction is a nuisance dog, dangerous dog, or vicious dog, 75  
the person shall notify the owner, keeper, or harborer of that 76  
dog, by certified mail or in person, of both of the following: 77

(1) That the person has designated the dog a nuisance dog, 78

dangerous dog, or vicious dog, as applicable; 79

(2) That the owner, keeper, or harborer of the dog may 80  
request a hearing regarding the designation in accordance with 81  
this section. The notice shall include instructions for filing a 82  
request for a hearing in the county in which the dog's owner, 83  
keeper, or harborer resides. 84

(C) If the owner, keeper, or harborer of the dog disagrees 85  
with the designation of the dog as a nuisance dog, dangerous 86  
dog, or vicious dog, as applicable, the owner, keeper, or 87  
harborer, not later than ten days after receiving notification 88  
of the designation, may request a hearing regarding the 89  
determination. The request for a hearing shall be in writing and 90  
shall be filed with the municipal court or county court that has 91  
territorial jurisdiction over the residence of the dog's owner, 92  
keeper, or harborer. At the hearing, the person who designated 93  
the dog as a nuisance dog, dangerous dog, or vicious dog has the 94  
burden of proving, by clear and convincing evidence, that the 95  
dog is a nuisance dog, dangerous dog, or vicious dog. 96

The owner, keeper, or harborer of the dog or the person 97  
who designated the dog as a nuisance dog, dangerous dog, or 98  
vicious dog may appeal the court's final determination as in any 99  
other case filed in that court. 100

(D) A-Subject to a quarantine period required under 101  
section 955.13 of the Revised Code, a court, upon motion of an 102  
owner, keeper, or harborer or an attorney representing the 103  
owner, keeper, or harborer, may order that the dog designated as 104  
a nuisance dog, dangerous dog, or vicious dog be held in the 105  
possession of the owner, keeper, or harborer from the time the 106  
quarantine expires, if applicable, until the court makes a final 107  
determination under this section or during the pendency of an 108

appeal, as applicable. Until the court makes a final 109  
determination and during the pendency of any appeal, the dog 110  
shall be confined or restrained in accordance with the 111  
provisions of division (D) of section 955.22 of the Revised Code 112  
that apply to dangerous dogs regardless of whether the dog has 113  
been designated as a vicious dog or a nuisance dog rather than a 114  
dangerous dog. The owner, keeper, or harborer of the dog shall 115  
not be required to comply with any other requirements 116  
established in the Revised Code that concern a nuisance dog, 117  
dangerous dog, or vicious dog, as applicable, until the court 118  
makes a final determination and during the pendency of any 119  
appeal. 120

(E) If a dog is finally determined under this section, or 121  
on appeal as described in this section, to be a vicious dog, 122  
division (D) of section 955.11 and divisions (D) to (I) of 123  
section 955.22 of the Revised Code apply with respect to the dog 124  
and the owner, keeper, or harborer of the dog as if the dog were 125  
a dangerous dog, and section 955.54 of the Revised Code applies 126  
with respect to the dog as if it were a dangerous dog, and the 127  
court shall issue an order that specifies that those provisions 128  
apply with respect to the dog and the owner, keeper, or harborer 129  
in that manner. As part of the order, the court shall require 130  
the owner, keeper, or harborer to obtain the liability insurance 131  
required under division (E) (1) of section 955.22 of the Revised 132  
Code in an amount described in division (H) (2) of section 955.99 133  
of the Revised Code. 134

(F) As used in this section, "nuisance dog," "dangerous 135  
dog," and "vicious dog" have the same meanings as in section 136  
955.11 of the Revised Code. 137

**Section 2.** That existing section 955.222 of the Revised 138

Code is hereby repealed.

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