



General Assembly

January Session, 2005

**Raised Bill No. 1134**

LCO No. 3325

\*03325\_\_\_\_\_PS\_\*

Referred to Committee on Public Safety and Security

Introduced by:  
(PS)

**AN ACT ELIMINATING STRICT LIABILITY FOR POLICE DOGS  
ENGAGED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 22-357 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2005*):

3 If any dog does any damage to either the body or property of any  
4 person, the owner or keeper, or, if the owner or keeper is a minor, the  
5 parent or guardian of such minor, shall be liable for such damage,  
6 except when such damage has been occasioned to the body or property  
7 of a person who, at the time such damage was sustained, was  
8 committing a trespass or other tort, or was teasing, tormenting or  
9 abusing such dog. If a minor, on whose behalf an action under this  
10 section is brought, was under seven years of age at the time the  
11 damage was done, it shall be presumed that such minor was not  
12 committing a trespass or other tort, or teasing, tormenting or abusing  
13 such dog, and the burden of proof thereof shall be upon the defendant  
14 in such action. The provisions of this section shall not apply to any dog  
15 owned by a police agency of the state or any of its political  
16 subdivisions when such dog is engaged in the performance of its

17 duties.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2005	22-357

**Statement of Purpose:**

To exempt police dogs engaged in the performance of their duties from strict liability provisions for dog bites.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*