



General Assembly

January Session, 2013

Committee Bill No. 5844

LCO No. 3859



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE OVERNIGHT TETHERING OF DOGS
OUTDOORS AND THE TETHERING OF DOGS OUTDOORS UNDER
CERTAIN WEATHER CONDITIONS.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 22-350a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2013*):

3 (a) No person shall tether a dog to a stationary object or to a mobile
4 device, including, but not limited to, a trolley or pulley by means of: [a:
5 (1) Tether] (1) A tether that does not allow such dog to walk at least
6 eight feet, excluding the length of such dog as measured from the tip
7 of such dog's nose to the base of such dog's tail, in any one direction,
8 (2) a tether that does not have swivels on both ends to prevent twisting
9 and tangling, unless [the owner or keeper of such dog] a person is in
10 the immediate presence of such dog, (3) a coat hanger, choke collar,
11 prong-type collar, head halter or any other collar, halter or device that
12 is not specifically designed or properly fitted for the restraint of such
13 dog, (4) a tether that has weights attached or that contains metal chain
14 links more than one-quarter of an inch thick, or (5) a tether that allows
15 such dog to reach an object or hazard, including, but not limited to, a

16 window sill, edge of a pool, fence, traffic, porch or terrace railing that
17 poses a [substantial] risk of injury or strangulation to such dog if such
18 dog walks into or jumps over such object or hazard, unless [the owner
19 or keeper of such dog is on the premises] a person is in the immediate
20 presence of such dog. The provisions of subdivisions (1) and (2) of this
21 subsection shall not be construed to apply to: (A) Any veterinary
22 practice licensed pursuant to section 20-197 that tethers a dog in the
23 course of such veterinary practice, (B) any exhibition, show, contest or
24 other temporary event in which the skill, breeding or stamina of such
25 dog is judged or examined, (C) any exhibition, class, training session or
26 other temporary event in which such dog is used in a lawful manner to
27 hunt a species of wildlife during the hunting season for such species of
28 wildlife or in which such dog receives training in a lawful manner to
29 hunt such species of wildlife, (D) the temporary tethering of a dog at
30 any camping or recreation area as expressly authorized by the
31 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, [or] (E) the
32 temporary tethering of a dog at a grooming facility in the course of
33 grooming such dog, or (F) the temporary tethering of a dog for a
34 period of time of not more than fifteen minutes in duration.

35 (b) No person shall tether a dog outdoors to a stationery object or to
36 a mobile device, including, but not limited to, any trolley or a pulley,
37 at any time between the hours of ten o'clock p.m. and six o'clock a.m.,
38 unless a person is outdoors in the presence of such dog.

39 (c) No person shall tether a dog outdoors to a stationery object or to
40 a mobile device, including, but not limited to, a trolley or a pulley,
41 when: (1) The outdoor temperature is greater than ninety degrees
42 Fahrenheit or is less than thirty-two degrees Fahrenheit, or (2) the
43 temperature or other environmental conditions, including, but not
44 limited to, rain, snow or ice, pose an adverse risk to the health or safety
45 of such dog, unless: (A) A person is outdoors in the presence of such
46 dog, or (B) such dog has unfettered access to and ability to enter a
47 shelter or structure, such as a house, apartment building, office
48 building or any other permanent structure that: (i) Provides natural

49 light, (ii) is structurally sound and does not otherwise pose a risk of
50 injury to such dog, (iii) allows such dog to stand up, turn around and
51 lie down with limbs fully outstretched and without such dog's head,
52 tail, legs or paws touching any side of such structure, (iv) has solid
53 flooring that is raised off the ground, (v) has a roof and three walls that
54 are waterproof, (vi) has an entryway shielded by a waterproof
55 windbreak, and (vii) has insulation sufficient to protect such dog from
56 outdoor environmental conditions, including, but not limited to,
57 extreme heat or cold, rain, snow or ice, that pose an adverse risk to the
58 health or safety of such dog. The provisions of this section shall not be
59 construed to apply to: (I) Any exhibition, show, contest or other
60 temporary event at which the skill, breeding or stamina of such dog is
61 judged or examined, (II) any exhibition, class, training session or other
62 temporary event at which such dog is used in a lawful manner to hunt
63 a species of wildlife during the hunting season for such species of
64 wildlife or at which such dog receives training in a lawful manner to
65 hunt such species of wildlife, (III) the temporary tethering of a dog at
66 any camping or recreation area as expressly authorized by the
67 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or (IV) the
68 temporary tethering of a dog for a period of time of not more than
69 fifteen minutes in duration.

70 [(b)] (d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect any
71 protection afforded to any dog pursuant to any other provision of the
72 general statutes, regulations of the Connecticut state agencies, local
73 ordinance or local regulation.

74 [(c)] (e) Any person who confines or tethers a dog for an
75 unreasonable period of time or in violation of the provisions of
76 subsection (a), (b) or (c) of this section shall be fined one hundred
77 dollars for the first offense, two hundred dollars for a second offense,
78 and not less than two hundred fifty dollars or more than five hundred
79 dollars for a third or subsequent offense.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2013	22-350a

Statement of Purpose:

To prohibit the overnight tethering of dogs outdoors and to prohibit the tethering of dogs outdoors during certain weather conditions unless shelter is readily accessible to such dog.

[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.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. URBAN, 43rd Dist.; REP. ZONI, 81st Dist.

H.B. 5844