

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



**PA 13-189**—sHB 5844

*Environment Committee*

*Judiciary Committee*

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

**SUMMARY:** This act prohibits tethering a dog outdoors to a stationary object or mobile device, such as a trolley or pulley, when (1) local, state, or federal authorities issue a weather advisory or warning or (2) weather (e.g., extreme heat, cold, wind, rain, snow, or hail) poses an adverse risk to the dog's health or safety based on its breed, age, or physical condition. But it allows a person to tether a dog outdoors in these conditions if the tethering lasts no longer than 15 minutes.

The act also expands the existing tethering prohibition. Prior law prohibited attaching a dog to a tether that allowed the dog to reach an object (e.g., a window sill, pool edge, fence, porch, or terrace railing) if the dog had a substantial risk of being injured or strangled if it jumped over the object. The act prohibits attaching a dog to a tether that allows the dog to reach an object or a hazard, including a public road or highway into which the dog could walk. It prohibits tethering a dog near an object or hazard that poses any risk, instead of substantial risk, of injuring or strangling the dog if it jumps over or walks into the object or hazard. It provides an exception to these prohibitions if anyone is in the dog's presence, instead of when the dog's keeper or owner is on the premises.

Under the act, as in existing law, violators are subject to a fine of (1) \$100 for a first offense, (2) \$200 for a second offense, and (3) between \$250 and \$500 for subsequent offenses.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2013

OLR Tracking: JLK:KM:TA:ts