



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Committee Bill No. 5215

LCO No. 3552



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE EPIDEMIC OF DOMESTIC DOG ATTACKS IN THE STATE.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than July 1, 2023,
2 the Commissioner of Agriculture shall convene a working group to
3 develop recommendations for legislation to: (1) Reduce the number of
4 attacks by domestic animals that result in the death or serious injury of
5 another animal or person, and (2) mitigate the effects of disposal orders
6 for such attacking domestic animals on municipalities and the state by
7 shortening the process for appealing animal control officer disposal
8 orders while ensuring due process for animal owners. Such working
9 group shall consist of the Commissioner of Agriculture, or the
10 commissioner's designee, the State Veterinarian, a representative of an
11 organization that represents animal control officers, a representative of
12 the American Kennel Club, a representative of an organization that
13 represents dog bite victims, a representative selected by the Connecticut
14 Humane Society, a representative selected by the American Society for
15 the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the chief elected officials of three
16 municipalities, one of whom shall represent a municipality with a
17 population of one hundred thousand or more persons, one of whom

18 shall represent a municipality with a population between ten thousand
19 and less than one hundred thousand persons, and one of whom shall
20 represent a municipality with a population of less than ten thousand
21 persons, a representative of the insurance industry who shall have
22 expertise with personal liability coverages and products, a
23 representative of the office of the Attorney General, a representative of
24 a municipal police department, a representative of a municipal fire
25 department or ambulance department, an emergency trauma physician
26 and a representative of the Connecticut state police. In undertaking its
27 work, such working group shall hold at least two public forums. The
28 commissioner shall submit the recommendations of such working
29 group to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
30 cognizance of matters relating to the environment on or before February
31 1, 2024.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To develop recommendations for legislation to address the epidemic of domestic dog attacks in the state and to expedite appeals of animal control officer orders and minimize the time impounded animals are held at taxpayer expense.

[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. DUBITSKY, 47th Dist.

H.B. 5215