

# Judiciary Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-5257

AN ACT CONCERNING LIABILITY FOR DAMAGE TO PERSON OR

**Title:** PROPERTY CAUSED BY A DOG.

**Vote Date:** 3/26/2024

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 3/4/2024

**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Judiciary Committee

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

The purpose of the Connecticut dog bite statute (C.G.S. § 22-357) is to provide a remedy to someone injured by a dog, regardless of fault or dangerous propensities of the animal. Currently, a discrepancy exists in statute that states the dog owner or keeper shall be liable. This bill fixes that and clarifies that section to include that when an owner and keeper can't be discerned or whether they are both at fault, both would be held liable.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

None expressed.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Kathleen Nastri, Past President, Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association:** She testified in support, stating that the proposed amendment would be consistent with similar statutes regarding owners and keepers of a dog that causes damage to other persons or property. She believes it would provide clarification to the reoccurring issue within the Supreme Court regarding who is to be found liable in the event that a dog causes damage to another person or property, and that it would protect and/or compensate victims of such damage caused by a dog to one's person or property.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None expressed.

**Reported by:** Cathleen Collins

**Date:** 3-21-24