
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1018

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By House Judiciary (originally sponsored by Representatives Appleton, Gregerson, Reykdal, Goodman, and Buys)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/16.

1 AN ACT Relating to preventing breed-based dog regulations; adding
2 a new section to chapter 16.08 RCW; creating a new section; and
3 providing an effective date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) A number of local jurisdictions have
6 enacted ordinances prohibiting or placing additional restrictions on
7 specific breeds of dogs. While the legislature recognizes that local
8 jurisdictions have a valid public safety interest in protecting
9 citizens from dog attacks, the legislature finds that a dog's breed
10 is not inherently indicative of whether or not a dog is dangerous and
11 that the criteria for determining whether or not a dog is dangerous
12 or potentially dangerous should be focused on the dog's behavior.

13 (2) The legislature further finds that breed-specific ordinances
14 fail to address the factors that cause dogs to become aggressive and
15 place an undue hardship on responsible dog owners who provide proper
16 socialization and training. The legislature intends to encourage
17 local jurisdictions to more effectively and fairly control dangerous
18 dogs and enhance public safety by focusing on dogs' behavior rather
19 than their breeds.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 16.08
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) Except as specified in subsection (2) of this section, a city
4 or county may not prohibit possession of a dog based upon its breed,
5 impose requirements specific to possession of a dog based upon its
6 breed, or declare a dog to be dangerous or potentially dangerous
7 based upon its breed.

8 (2) Any city or county that had in effect, on January 1, 2016, an
9 ordinance or regulation that prohibits possession of a dog based upon
10 its breed, imposes requirements specific to possession of a dog based
11 upon its breed, or declares a dog dangerous or potentially dangerous
12 based on its breed is exempt from subsection (1) of this section,
13 provided that all of the following conditions are met:

14 (a) The city or county has established and maintains a reasonable
15 process for exempting any dog from breed-based regulations or a breed
16 ban if the dog passes the American kennel club canine good citizen
17 test or a reasonably equivalent canine behavioral test as determined
18 by the city or county;

19 (b) Dogs that pass the American kennel club canine good citizen
20 test or a reasonably equivalent canine behavioral test are exempt
21 from breed-based regulations for a period of at least two years;

22 (c) Dogs that pass the American kennel club canine good citizen
23 test or a reasonably equivalent canine behavioral test are given the
24 opportunity to retest to maintain their exemption from breed-based
25 regulations;

26 (d) Dogs that fail the American kennel club canine good citizen
27 test or a reasonably equivalent canine behavioral test are given the
28 opportunity to retest within a reasonable period of time, as
29 determined by the city or county; and

30 (e) The city or county does not apply more stringent breed-based
31 regulations than were in effect in its jurisdiction on January 1,
32 2016.

33 (3) This section does not prohibit a city or county from
34 documenting either a dog's breed or its physical appearance, or both,
35 for identification purposes when declaring a dog dangerous or
36 potentially dangerous.

37 (4) For the purpose of this section, "dog" means a domesticated
38 member of the family canidae, specifically species *Canus lupus*
39 *familiaris*, and excludes nondomesticated members of the family

1 canidae and any hybrids thereof, including but not limited to wolves,
2 coyotes, wolf-dog hybrids, and coyote-dog hybrids.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect January 1, 2017.

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