

Senate Engrossed

animal bites; owner contact information

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-seventh Legislature
First Regular Session
2025

SENATE BILL 1241

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 11-1025, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO ANIMAL
HANDLING.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 11-1025, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 11-1025. Liability for dog bites; owner information; military
5 and police work; definitions

6 A. The owner of a dog that bites a person when the person is in or
7 on a public place or lawfully in or on a private place, including the
8 property of the owner of the dog, is liable for damages suffered by the
9 person bitten, regardless of the former viciousness of the dog or the
10 owner's knowledge of its viciousness.

11 B. A PERSON WHO OWNS OR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CARE OF A DOG THAT
12 BITES A PERSON WHEN THE PERSON IS IN OR ON A PUBLIC PLACE OR LAWFULLY IN
13 OR ON A PRIVATE PLACE, INCLUDING THE PROPERTY OF THE OWNER OF THE DOG,
14 SHALL PROVIDE THE OWNER'S CONTACT INFORMATION TO THE PERSON WHO SUFFERED
15 THE DOG BITE.

16 ~~B.~~ C. The breed of a dog may not be considered in findings of
17 facts or conclusions of law entered by a court, administrative law judge,
18 hearing officer, arbitrator or other legal decision-maker regarding
19 whether a dog is aggressive or vicious or has created liability.

20 ~~C.~~ D. This section and section 11-1020 do not allow the bringing
21 of an action for damages against any governmental agency using a dog in
22 military or police work if the bite occurred while the dog was defending
23 itself from a harassing or provoking act or assisting an employee of the
24 agency in any of the following:

- 25 1. Apprehending or holding a suspect if the employee had a
26 reasonable suspicion of the suspect's involvement in criminal activity.
- 27 2. Investigating a crime or possible crime.
- 28 3. Executing a warrant.
- 29 4. Defending a peace officer or another person.

30 ~~D.~~ E. Subsection ~~C~~ D of this section does not apply in any case
31 in which the victim of the bite was not a party to, nor a participant in,
32 nor suspected to be a party to or a participant in, the act that prompted
33 the use of the dog in the military or police work.

34 ~~E.~~ F. Subsection ~~C~~ D of this section applies only if a
35 governmental agency using a dog in military or police work has adopted a
36 written policy on the necessary and appropriate use of a dog for the
37 police or military work enumerated in subsection ~~C~~ D of this section.

38 ~~F.~~ G. For the purposes of this section:

- 39 1. "Aggressive" means that a dog has bitten a person or domestic
40 animal without provocation or has a known history of attacking persons or
41 domestic animals without provocation.
- 42 2. "Breed" means the actual or perceived breed or mixture of breeds
43 of a dog.

1 3. "Provocation" means tormenting, attacking or inciting a dog and
2 includes the standard for determining provocation prescribed in section
3 11-1027.

4 4. "Vicious" means that a dog has a propensity to attack, to cause
5 injury to or to otherwise endanger the safety of human beings without
6 provocation or has been found to have any of these traits after a hearing
7 before a court of competent jurisdiction or before a hearing officer
8 pursuant to section 11-1006.