

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 86th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2007  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2250

5 By: Representative D. Hutchinson  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO REQUIRE DOG OWNERS TO PAY FOR MEDICAL  
10 COSTS WHEN DOGS INJURE CHILDREN; AND FOR OTHER  
11 PURPOSES.  
12

## Subtitle

13 AN ACT TO REQUIRE DOG OWNERS TO PAY FOR  
14 MEDICAL COSTS WHEN DOGS INJURE CHILDREN.  
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 16, Chapter 118, Subchapter 1 is  
21 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

22 16-118-108. Civil actions against dog owners.

23 (a) As used in this section:

24 (1) "Dog owner" means a person, firm, corporation, or  
25 organization owning, possessing, harboring, keeping, having financial or  
26 property interest in, or having control or custody of, a dog; and

27 (2) "Physical injury" means the:

28 (A) Impairment of a physical condition; or

29 (B) Infliction of substantial pain.

30 (b) A parent, a guardian, or the personal representative of an  
31 individual who is fourteen (14) years of age or younger who suffers a  
32 physical injury as a result of being bitten by a dog may bring a civil action  
33 to recover damages against the dog owner.

34 (c) If a dog attacks or bites an individual who is fourteen (14) years  
35 of age or younger, the dog owner shall pay any medical costs over one hundred  
36 dollars (\$100) that result from the attack or bite if the child's parent or



1 guardian was not present when the attack or bite occurred.

2 (d) This section does not apply to a person who suffers serious bodily  
3 injury, or death from being bitten by a dangerous dog, if:

4 (1) The person:

5 (A) Is trespassing;

6 (B) Knowingly provokes the dog; or

7 (C) Is a veterinary health care worker, dog groomer,  
8 humane agency staff person, professional dog handler, trainer, or dog show  
9 judge acting in the performance of his or her respective duties; or

10 (2) The dog is working:

11 (A) With a peace officer or military personnel in the  
12 performance of peace officer or military personnel duties; or

13 (B) As a hunting dog, herding dog, farm or ranch dog, or  
14 predator control dog on the property of or under the control of the dog's  
15 owner.

16 (e) Nothing in this section may be construed to affect:

17 (1) Any other cause of action predicated on other negligence,  
18 intentional tort, outrageous conduct, or other theories; or

19 (2) The provisions of any other criminal or civil statute or  
20 local, municipal, or county ordinance governing the regulation of dogs.

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