

HOUSE BILL No. 1205

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 15-20-1-3.

Synopsis: Strict liability for dog bites and injuries. Holds a dog owner or custodian strictly liable for a dog bite or injury when: (1) a dog bites or injures a person without provocation; and (2) the person is bitten or injured while in a location the person is legally authorized to occupy.

Effective: July 1, 2017.

Arnold L

January 10, 2017, read first time and referred to Committee on Judiciary.



First Regular Session of the 120th General Assembly (2017)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2016 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

HOUSE BILL No. 1205

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning agriculture and animals.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 15-20-1-3, AS ADDED BY P.L.2-2008, SECTION
2 11, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
3 2017]: Sec. 3. (a) If a dog, without provocation, bites **or injures** a
4 person:
5 (1) who is acting peaceably; and
6 (2) who is in a location ~~where~~ the person ~~may be required to be in~~
7 ~~order to discharge a duty imposed upon the person by:~~
8 (A) ~~the laws of Indiana;~~
9 (B) ~~the laws of the United States; or~~
10 (C) ~~the postal regulations of the United States; is legally~~
11 **authorized to occupy;**
12 the owner **or custodian** of the dog is liable for all damages, **including**
13 **punitive damages**, suffered by the person bitten **or injured**.
14 (b) The owner **or custodian** of a dog described in subsection (a) is
15 liable for **all** damages, **including punitive damages**, even if:
16 (1) the dog has not previously behaved in a vicious manner; or
17 (2) the owner has no knowledge of prior vicious behavior by the



1 dog.

