

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 630

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR HOSKINS.

2629S.011

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary

AN ACT

To amend chapter 537, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to liability for removing a domestic animal from a motor vehicle.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 537, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 537.557, to read as follows:

537.557. 1. As used in this section, the following terms mean:

(1) "Domestic animal", a dog of the canine species, a cat of the feline species, or other animal that is domesticated and kept as a household pet. The term "domestic animal" shall not include livestock as defined in section 144.010 or other farm animals;

(2) "Motor vehicle", any self-propelled vehicle licensed for operation or operated upon the roads and highways of this state, but shall not include farm tractors.

2. A person who enters a motor vehicle, by force or otherwise, for the expressed purpose of removing a domestic animal shall not be liable in a civil action for any damages to the motor vehicle if such person:

(1) Determines that the motor vehicle is locked or there is no other reasonable method for the domestic animal to exit the motor vehicle without assistance;

18 (2) Has a good faith and reasonable belief, based upon
19 known circumstances, that entry into the motor vehicle is
20 necessary because the domestic animal is in imminent danger
21 of suffering harm;

22 (3) Ensures that law enforcement is notified or calls
23 911 before entering the motor vehicle or immediately
24 thereafter;

25 (4) Uses no more force to enter the motor vehicle and
26 remove the domestic animal than is necessary; and

27 (5) Remains with the domestic animal in a safe
28 location in reasonable proximity to the motor vehicle until
29 a law enforcement officer or a first responder arrives.

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