
HOUSE BILL 1026

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representative Appleton

Prefiled 12/06/18.

1 AN ACT Relating to breed-based dog regulations; adding a new
2 section to chapter 16.08 RCW; creating a new section; and providing
3 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) A city or county may not prohibit the possession of a dog
4 based upon its breed, impose requirements specific to possession of a
5 dog based upon its breed, or declare a dog dangerous or potentially
6 dangerous based on its breed unless all of the following conditions
7 are met:

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

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

16 (c) Dogs that pass the American kennel club canine good citizen
17 test or a reasonably equivalent canine behavioral test are given the
18 opportunity to retest to maintain their exemption from breed-based
19 regulations; and

20 (d) Dogs that fail the American kennel club canine good citizen
21 test or a reasonably equivalent canine behavioral test are given the
22 opportunity to retest within a reasonable period of time, as
23 determined by the city or county.

24 (2) This section does not apply to the act of documenting either
25 a dog's breed or its physical appearance, or both, solely for
26 identification purposes when declaring a dog dangerous or potentially
27 dangerous.

28 (3) For the purpose of this section, "dog" means a domesticated
29 member of the family canidae, specifically species *Canus lupus*
30 *familiaris*, and excludes nondomesticated members of the family
31 canidae and any hybrids thereof, including but not limited to wolves,
32 coyotes, wolf-dog hybrids, and coyote-dog hybrids.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect January 1, 2020.

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