Senate

General Assembly

File No. 776

January Session, 2025

Senate Bill No. 1446

Senate, April 28, 2025

The Committee on Judiciary reported through SEN. WINFIELD of the 10th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING ROAMING DOGS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Section 22-364 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) No owner or keeper of any dog or livestock as defined in section 22-381 shall allow such dog or livestock to roam at large upon the land of another and not under control of the owner or keeper or the agent of the owner or keeper, nor allow such dog or livestock to roam at large on any portion of any public highway and not attended or under control of such owner or keeper or an agent of such owner or keeper, provided nothing in this subsection shall be construed to limit or prohibit the use of hunting dogs during the open hunting or training season. The unauthorized presence of any dog or livestock on the land of any person other than the owner or keeper of such dog or livestock or on any portion of a public highway when such dog or livestock is not attended by or under the control of such owner or keeper, shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of the provisions of this subsection. **[**Violation of

any provision of this subsection shall be an infraction.**]**

(b) The animal control officer or regional animal control officer appointed pursuant to section 22-328, 22-331 or 22-331a, as applicable, of any city or town in which any such dog or livestock is found roaming at large may, in addition to any other remedies provided by law, seek an order enforcing the provisions of this section, including an injunction, from the superior court of the judicial district in which such dog or livestock is found roaming at large.

(c) A violation of subsection (a) of this section concerning livestock shall be an infraction.

(d) (1) Any owner or keeper of any dog who violates subsection (a) of this section shall be fined not more than three hundred fifty dollars for a first violation and not more than five hundred dollars for a second violation. Any subsequent violation of subsection (a) of this section by an owner or keeper of any dog shall be a class C misdemeanor.

[(b)**]** (2) Any owner or keeper of any dog who, knowing of the vicious propensities of such dog and having violated **[**the provisions of**]** subsection (a) of this section within the preceding year, intentionally or recklessly violates **[**the provisions of**]** subsection (a) of this section shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than six months, or both, if such dog, while roaming at large, causes physical injury to another person and such other person was not teasing, tormenting or abusing such dog.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*October 1, 2025*	22-364

JUD *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 $	FY 27 $
Judicial Dept. (Probation)	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill increases the penalty to owners of roaming dogs from an infraction to a fine up to $350 for a first violation, a fine up to $500 for a second violation, and a class C misdemeanor for subsequent violations. This results in a potential cost to the Judicial Department for probation and a potential revenue gain to the General Fund from fines.[1] On average, the marginal cost for supervision in the community is less than $600[2] each year for adults.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation and the actual violations.

[1] In FY 24, 1,256 charges were recorded and $50,332 in associated revenue collected under CGS § 22-364(a).

[2] Probation marginal cost is based on services provided by private providers and only includes costs that increase with each additional participant. This does not include a cost for additional supervision by a probation officer unless a new offense is anticipated to result in enough additional offenders to require additional probation officers.

OLR Bill Analysis

SB 1446

AN ACT CONCERNING ROAMING DOGS.

SUMMARY

This bill increases the penalty for dog owners or keepers who allow their dogs to roam at large on another's land or on a public highway when not under their control.

Under current law, this is an infraction. The bill instead makes it punishable by a fine of up to $350 for a first violation, a fine of up to $500 for a second violation, and a class C misdemeanor for a subsequent violation, which is punishable by a fine of up to $500, up to three months in prison, or both.

By law, the unauthorized presence of a dog on another's land or a public highway when not under its owner's or keeper's control is prima facie evidence of a violation.

The bill also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 39 Nay 0 (04/10/2025)