General Assembly

Raised Bill No. 1446

January Session, 2025

LCO No. **5893**

Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:
(JUD)

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 Section 22-364 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):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

Statement of Purpose:
To enhance fines for unlawfully permitting a dog to roam at large.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]