

Amendment No.

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED \_\_\_\_\_ (Y/N)  
ADOPTED AS AMENDED \_\_\_\_\_ (Y/N)  
ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION \_\_\_\_\_ (Y/N)  
FAILED TO ADOPT \_\_\_\_\_ (Y/N)  
WITHDRAWN \_\_\_\_\_ (Y/N)  
OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

1 Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Intergovernmental Affairs  
2 Subcommittee

3 Representative Sapp offered the following:

4  
5 **Amendment (with title amendment)**

6 Remove everything after the enacting clause and insert:

7 **Section 1.** This act may be cited as the "Pam Rock Act."

8 **Section 2. Section 767.01, Florida Statutes, is amended to**  
9 **read:**

10 767.01 Dog owner's liability for damages to persons,  
11 domestic animals, or livestock.—

12 (1) A dog owner is ~~Owners of dogs shall be~~ liable for any  
13 damage done by the owner's dog ~~their dogs~~ to a person or to any  
14 animal included in the definitions of "domestic animal" and  
15 "livestock" as provided by s. 585.01.

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16           (2) If a dog owner has knowledge of the dog's dangerous  
17 propensities, the owner must securely confine the dog in a  
18 proper enclosure as defined in s. 767.11.

19           **Section 3. Section 767.10, Florida Statutes, is amended to**  
20 **read:**

21           767.10 Legislative findings.—The Legislature finds that  
22 dangerous dogs are an increasingly serious and widespread threat  
23 to the safety and welfare of the people of this state because of  
24 unprovoked attacks which cause injury to persons and domestic  
25 animals; that such attacks are in part attributable to the  
26 failure of owners to confine and properly train and control  
27 their dogs; that existing laws inadequately address this growing  
28 problem; and that it is appropriate and necessary to impose  
29 uniform requirements for dog the owners of ~~dangerous dogs~~.

30           **Section 4. Section 767.11, Florida Statutes, is reordered**  
31 **and amended to read:**

32           767.11 Definitions.—As used in this part ~~act~~, unless the  
33 context clearly requires otherwise:

34           (3)~~(1)~~ "Dangerous dog" means a ~~any~~ dog that according to  
35 the records of the appropriate authority:

36           (a) Has aggressively bitten, attacked, or endangered or  
37 has inflicted severe injury on a human being on public or  
38 private property;

39           (b) Has more than once severely injured or killed a  
40 domestic animal while off the owner's property; or

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41 (c) Has, when unprovoked, chased or approached a person  
42 upon the streets, sidewalks, or any public grounds in a menacing  
43 fashion or apparent attitude of attack, provided that such  
44 actions are attested to in a sworn statement by one or more  
45 persons and dutifully investigated by the appropriate authority.

46 ~~(7)-(2)~~ "Unprovoked" means that the victim who has been  
47 conducting himself or herself peacefully and lawfully has been  
48 bitten or chased in a menacing fashion or attacked by a dog.

49 ~~(6)-(3)~~ "Severe injury" means any physical injury that  
50 results in broken bones, multiple bites, or disfiguring  
51 lacerations requiring sutures or reconstructive surgery.

52 ~~(5)-(4)~~ "Proper enclosure ~~of a dangerous dog~~" means, while  
53 on the owner's property, a ~~dangerous~~ dog is securely confined:

54 (a) Indoors;

55 (b) In a locked, fenced yard, suitable to prevent the  
56 entry of young children and designed to prevent the dog from  
57 escaping over, under, or through the fence; or

58 (c) In a securely enclosed and locked pen or structure,  
59 suitable to prevent the entry of young children and designed to  
60 prevent the dog animal from escaping. The ~~Such~~ pen or structure  
61 must ~~shall~~ have secure sides and a secure top to prevent the dog  
62 from escaping over, under, or through the structure and must  
63 ~~shall~~ also provide protection from the elements.

64 ~~(1)-(5)~~ "Animal control authority" means an entity acting  
65 alone or in concert with other local governmental units and

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66 authorized by them to enforce the animal control laws of the  
67 city, county, or state. In those areas not served by an animal  
68 control authority, the sheriff shall carry out the duties of the  
69 animal control authority under this part ~~act~~.

70 (2)(6) "Animal control officer" means any individual  
71 employed, contracted with, or appointed by the animal control  
72 authority for the purpose of aiding in the enforcement of this  
73 part ~~act~~ or any other law or ordinance relating to the licensure  
74 of animals, control of animals, or seizure and impoundment of  
75 animals and includes any state or local law enforcement officer  
76 or other employee whose duties in whole or in part include  
77 assignments that involve the seizure and impoundment of an ~~any~~  
78 animal.

79 (4)(7) "Owner" means a ~~any~~ person, a firm, a corporation,  
80 or an organization possessing, harboring, keeping, or having  
81 control or custody of an animal or, if the animal is owned by a  
82 person ~~under the age of 18~~ years of age or younger, that  
83 person's parent or guardian.

84 **Section 5. Section 767.12, Florida Statutes, is amended to**  
85 **read:**

86 767.12 Classification of dogs as dangerous; owner  
87 requirements; penalty ~~certification of registration; notice and~~  
88 ~~hearing requirements; confinement of animal; exemption; appeals;~~  
89 ~~unlawful acts.-~~

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90 (1) An animal control authority shall investigate reported  
91 incidents involving any dog that may be dangerous and, if  
92 possible, shall interview the owner and require a sworn  
93 affidavit from any person, including any animal control officer  
94 or enforcement officer, desiring to have a dog classified as  
95 dangerous.

96 (a) An animal that is the subject of a dangerous dog  
97 investigation for behavior described in s. 767.11(3)(a) or (c)  
98 must ~~because of severe injury to a human being~~ may be  
99 immediately confiscated by an animal control authority; ~~it~~ placed  
100 in quarantine, if necessary, for the proper length of time; ~~it~~ or  
101 impounded; and held. The animal must ~~may~~ be held pending the  
102 outcome of the investigation and any hearings or appeals related  
103 to the dangerous dog classification or any penalty imposed under  
104 this section. If the dog is to be destroyed, the dog may not be  
105 destroyed while an appeal is pending. The owner is responsible  
106 for payment of all boarding costs and other fees as may be  
107 required to humanely and safely keep the animal pending any  
108 hearing or appeal, unless it is determined that the dog is not  
109 dangerous.

110 (b) An animal that is the subject of a dangerous dog  
111 investigation for behavior described in s. 767.11(3)(b) may be  
112 immediately confiscated by an animal control authority; placed  
113 in quarantine, if necessary, for the proper length of time; or  
114 impounded and held. An animal that ~~which~~ is not impounded with

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115 the animal control authority must be ~~humanely and safely~~  
116 confined by the owner in a proper enclosure ~~securely fenced or~~  
117 ~~enclosed area. The animal shall be confined in such manner~~  
118 pending the outcome of the investigation and the resolution of  
119 any hearings or appeals related to the dangerous dog  
120 classification or any penalty imposed under this section. The  
121 owner shall provide the address at which the animal resides  
122 ~~shall be provided~~ to the animal control authority. A dog that is  
123 the subject of a dangerous dog investigation may not be  
124 relocated or have its ownership transferred pending the outcome  
125 of the investigation and any hearings or appeals related to the  
126 dangerous dog classification or any penalty imposed under this  
127 section. If a dog is to be destroyed, the dog may not be  
128 relocated or have its ownership transferred.

129 (2) A dog may not be declared dangerous if any of the  
130 following apply:

131 (a) The threat, injury, or damage was sustained by a  
132 person who, at the time, was unlawfully on the property or who,  
133 while lawfully on the property, was tormenting, abusing, or  
134 assaulting the dog or its owner or a family member.

135 (b) The dog was protecting or defending a human being  
136 within the immediate vicinity of the dog from an unjustified  
137 attack or assault.

138 (3) After the investigation, the animal control authority  
139 shall make an initial determination as to whether there is

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140 sufficient cause to classify the dog as dangerous and, if  
141 sufficient cause is found, as to the appropriate penalty under  
142 ~~subsection (5)~~. The animal control authority shall afford the  
143 owner an opportunity for a hearing before ~~prior to~~ making a  
144 final determination regarding the classification or penalty. The  
145 animal control authority shall provide written notification of  
146 the sufficient cause finding and proposed penalty to the owner  
147 by registered mail or certified hand delivery, or service in  
148 conformance with the provisions of chapter 48 relating to  
149 service of process. The owner may file a written request for a  
150 hearing regarding the dangerous dog classification, penalty, or  
151 both, within 7 calendar days after receipt of the notification  
152 of the sufficient cause finding and proposed penalty. If the  
153 owner requests a hearing, the hearing must ~~shall~~ be held as soon  
154 as possible, but not later than 21 calendar days and not sooner  
155 than 5 days after receipt of the request from the owner. If a  
156 hearing is not timely requested regarding the dangerous dog  
157 classification or proposed penalty, the determination of the  
158 animal control authority as to such matter is ~~shall become~~  
159 final. Each applicable local governing authority shall establish  
160 hearing procedures that conform to this subsection.

161 (4) Upon a dangerous dog classification and penalty  
162 becoming final after a hearing or by operation of law pursuant  
163 to subsection (3), the animal control authority shall provide a  
164 written final order to the owner by registered mail or

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165 certified hand delivery or service. The owner may appeal the  
166 classification ~~or,~~ penalty, or both, to the circuit court in  
167 accordance with the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure after  
168 receipt of the final order. If the dog is not held by the animal  
169 control authority, the owner must confine the dog in a proper  
170 enclosure ~~securely fenced or enclosed area~~ pending resolution of  
171 the appeal. Each applicable local governing authority must  
172 establish appeal procedures that conform to this subsection.

173 (5) (a) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b), the  
174 owner of a dog classified as a dangerous dog shall do all of the  
175 following:

176 1. Upon ~~Within 14 days after~~ issuance of the final order  
177 classifying the dog as dangerous or the conclusion of any appeal  
178 that affirms such final order, obtain a certificate of  
179 registration for the dog from the animal control authority  
180 serving the area in which he or she resides, and renew the  
181 certificate annually. Animal control authorities may ~~are~~  
182 ~~authorized to~~ issue such certificates of registration, and  
183 renewals thereof, only to persons who are at least 18 years of  
184 age and who present to the animal control authority sufficient  
185 evidence of all of the following:

186 a. A current certificate of rabies vaccination for the  
187 dog.

188 b. A proper enclosure to confine the ~~a~~ dangerous dog and  
189 the posting of the premises with a clearly visible warning sign

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190 at all entry points which informs both children and adults of  
191 the presence of a dangerous dog on the property.

192 c. Permanent identification of the dog, ~~such as a tattoo~~  
193 ~~on the inside thigh or electronic~~ by implantation of a  
194 microchip. Any person who knowingly and willfully removes a  
195 microchip implanted pursuant to this sub-subparagraph commits a  
196 felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s.  
197 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

198 d. The dog having been spayed or neutered.

199 e. Liability insurance as required by sub-paragraph 2.

200

201 The appropriate governmental unit may impose an annual fee for  
202 the issuance of certificates of registration required by this  
203 section.

204 2. Upon issuance of the final order classifying the dog as  
205 dangerous or the conclusion of any appeal that affirms such  
206 final order, obtain liability insurance coverage in an amount of  
207 at least \$100,000 to cover damages resulting from an attack by  
208 the dangerous dog causing bodily injury to a person and provide  
209 proof of the required liability insurance coverage to the animal  
210 control authority for the area in which the dog is kept.

211 3.2- Immediately notify the appropriate animal control  
212 authority when the dog:

213 a. Is loose or unconfined;;-

214 b. Has bitten a human being or attacked another animal;;-

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215 c. Is sold, given away, or dies; or-

216 d. Is moved to another address.

217 4. a. Before selling or giving away the a dangerous dog is  
218 sold or given away, the owner shall provide the name, address,  
219 and telephone number of the new owner to the animal control  
220 authority. The new owner must comply with all of the  
221 requirements of this section and any implementing local  
222 ordinances, even if the animal is moved from one local  
223 jurisdiction to another within this the state, and. The animal  
224 control officer must notify the animal control authority be  
225 notified by the owner of a dog classified as dangerous that the  
226 dog is in the authority's his or her jurisdiction.

227 b. If the dangerous dog is surrendered to a public or  
228 private animal shelter, humane organization, or animal control  
229 agency operated by a humane organization or by a county,  
230 municipality, or other incorporated political subdivision, the  
231 entity must post signage on the dog's enclosure to inform  
232 potential adopters that the dog has been declared dangerous and  
233 inform any adopter of the dog owner's requirements under this  
234 section.

235 5.3- Not allow ~~permit~~ the dog to be outside a proper  
236 enclosure unless the dog is muzzled and restrained by a  
237 substantial chain or leash and under control of a competent  
238 person. The muzzle must be made in a manner that will not cause  
239 injury to the dog or interfere with its vision or respiration

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240 but will prevent it from biting a person or an animal. The owner  
241 may exercise the dog on the owner's property in a proper  
242 enclosure ~~securely fenced or enclosed area that does not have a~~  
243 ~~top,~~ without a muzzle or leash, if the dog remains within the  
244 owner's ~~his or her sight~~ and only members of the immediate  
245 household or persons 18 years of age or older, if applicable,  
246 are allowed in the enclosure when the dog is present. When being  
247 transported, such dogs must be safely and securely restrained  
248 within a vehicle.

249 (b) If a dog is classified as a dangerous dog due to an  
250 incident that causes severe injury to a human being, based upon  
251 the nature and circumstances of the injury and the likelihood of  
252 a future threat to the public safety, health, and welfare, the  
253 dog may be destroyed in an expeditious and humane manner.

254 (6) Hunting dogs are exempt from this section when engaged  
255 in any legal hunt or training procedure. Dogs engaged in  
256 training or exhibiting in legal sports such as obedience trials,  
257 conformation shows, field trials, hunting/retrieving trials, and  
258 herding trials are exempt from this section when engaged in any  
259 legal procedures. However, such dogs at all other times in all  
260 other respects are subject to this and local laws. Dogs that  
261 have been classified as dangerous may not be used for hunting  
262 purposes.

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263 (7) A person who violates ~~any provision of~~ this section  
264 commits a noncriminal infraction, punishable by a fine not to  
265 exceed \$1,000 per violation ~~\$500~~.

266 **Section 6. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 767.13,**  
267 **Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

268 767.13 Attack or bite by dangerous dog; penalties;  
269 confiscation; destruction.—

270 (1) If a dog that has previously been declared dangerous  
271 attacks or bites a person or a domestic animal without  
272 provocation, the owner commits ~~is guilty of~~ a misdemeanor of the  
273 first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.  
274 775.083. ~~In addition,~~ The dangerous dog must ~~shall~~ be  
275 immediately confiscated by an animal control authority; ~~it~~ placed  
276 in quarantine, if necessary, for the proper length of time; ~~it~~ or  
277 impounded; and held for 10 business days after the owner is  
278 given written notification under s. 767.12, and thereafter  
279 destroyed in an expeditious and humane manner. ~~This 10-day time~~  
280 ~~period shall allow~~ The owner may to request a hearing under s.  
281 767.12 during the 10 business days after such notification. The  
282 owner is ~~shall be~~ responsible for payment of all boarding costs  
283 and other fees as may be required to humanely and safely keep  
284 the animal during any appeal procedure.

285 (2) If a dog that has previously been declared dangerous  
286 attacks and causes severe injury to or death of any human, the  
287 owner commits ~~is guilty of~~ a felony of the third degree,

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288 punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.  
289 ~~In addition,~~ The dog must ~~shall~~ be immediately confiscated by an  
290 animal control authority; placed in quarantine, if necessary,  
291 for the proper length of time; impounded; and or held for 10  
292 business days after the owner is given written notification  
293 under s. 767.12, and thereafter destroyed in an expeditious and  
294 humane manner. ~~This 10-day time period shall allow~~ The owner may  
295 ~~to~~ request a hearing under s. 767.12 during the 10 business days  
296 after such notification. The owner is ~~shall be~~ responsible for  
297 payment of all boarding costs and other fees as may be required  
298 to humanely and safely keep the animal during any appeal  
299 procedure.

300 **Section 7. Section 767.135, Florida Statutes, is amended**  
301 **to read:**

302 767.135 Attack or bite by unclassified dog that causes  
303 death; confiscation; destruction.—If a dog that has not been  
304 declared dangerous attacks and causes the death of a human, the  
305 dog must ~~shall~~ be immediately confiscated by an animal control  
306 authority; placed in quarantine, if necessary, for the proper  
307 length of time; impounded; and ~~or~~ held for 10 business days  
308 after the owner is given written notification under s. 767.12,  
309 and thereafter destroyed in an expeditious and humane manner.  
310 ~~This 10-day time period shall allow~~ The owner may ~~to~~ request a  
311 hearing under s. 767.12 during the 10 business days after such  
312 notification. If the owner files a written appeal under s.

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313 767.12 or this section, the dog must be held and may not be  
314 destroyed while the appeal is pending. The owner is responsible  
315 for payment of all boarding costs and other fees as may be  
316 required to humanely and safely keep the animal during any  
317 appeal procedure.

318 **Section 8. Subsection (1) of section 767.136, Florida**  
319 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

320 767.136 Attack or bite by unclassified dog that causes  
321 severe injury or death; penalties.—

322 (1) If a dog that has not been declared dangerous attacks  
323 and causes severe injury to, or the death of, a human, and the  
324 owner of the dog had knowledge of the dog's dangerous  
325 propensities, yet failed to secure the dog in a proper enclosure  
326 pursuant to s. 767.01(2) ~~demonstrated a reckless disregard for~~  
327 ~~such propensities under the circumstances,~~ the owner of the dog  
328 commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as  
329 provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

330 **Section 9.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

331

332

333 **T I T L E A M E N D M E N T**

334 Remove everything before the enacting clause and insert:

335 An act relating to dangerous dogs; providing a short  
336 title; amending s. 767.01, F.S.; requiring certain dog  
337 owners to securely confine their dogs in a proper

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338 enclosure; amending s. 767.10, F.S.; revising  
339 legislative findings relating to dangerous dogs;  
340 reordering and amending s. 767.11, F.S.; revising  
341 definitions; amending s. 767.12, F.S.; requiring,  
342 rather than authorizing, that dogs subject to certain  
343 dangerous dog investigations be confiscated,  
344 impounded, and held; requiring, rather than  
345 authorizing, that such dogs be held until the  
346 completion of certain actions; revising the  
347 circumstances under which an owner is responsible for  
348 paying certain costs and fees; requiring that certain  
349 dogs not impounded be confined in a proper enclosure  
350 by the owner; revising the information that the owner  
351 of a dog classified as a dangerous dog is required to  
352 provide to an animal control authority; requiring  
353 microchipping of dog classified as a dangerous dog;  
354 providing a penalty for knowingly and willfully  
355 removing a microchip; requiring such owner to obtain  
356 dangerous dog liability insurance coverage; providing  
357 requirements for such insurance; requiring animal  
358 shelter or animal control agency operated by a humane  
359 society or a local government to provide specified  
360 information; revising the civil penalty for  
361 violations; amending ss. 767.13 and 767.135, F.S.;  
362 making technical changes; conforming provisions to

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363 | changes made by the act; amending s. 767.136, F.S.;

364 | revising the circumstances under which the owner of a

365 | dog that has not been declared dangerous is liable for

366 | such dog's severe injury to, or the death of, a human;

367 | providing an effective date.

368 |