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CS/HB 593, Engrossed 1

2025 Legislature

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2       An act relating to dangerous dogs; providing a short  
3       title; amending s. 767.01, F.S.; requiring certain dog  
4       owners to securely confine their dogs in a proper  
5       enclosure; making technical changes; amending s.  
6       767.10, F.S.; revising legislative findings relating  
7       to dangerous dogs; reordering and amending s. 767.11,  
8       F.S.; revising definitions; amending s. 767.12, F.S.;  
9       requiring, rather than authorizing, that dogs subject  
10      to certain dangerous dog investigations which have  
11      killed or bitten a human being to a certain severity  
12      be immediately confiscated, placed in quarantine if  
13      necessary, impounded, and held; requiring, rather than  
14      authorizing, that such dogs be held until the  
15      completion of certain actions; authorizing dogs that  
16      are the subject of multiple dangerous dog  
17      investigations to be immediately confiscated, placed  
18      in quarantine, impounded, and held; requiring that  
19      certain dogs not impounded with the animal control  
20      authority be confined in a proper enclosure by the  
21      owner; requiring the owner of a dog subject to a  
22      dangerous dog investigation to provide certain  
23      information to an animal control authority; requiring  
24      the owner of a dog classified as dangerous to obtain a  
25      certificate of registration for the dog from a certain

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26 animal control authority and renew the certification  
27 annually; authorizing an animal control authority to  
28 issue certain certificates of registration to certain  
29 persons if certain conditions have been met, including  
30 implantation of a microchip, spaying or neutering the  
31 dog, and obtaining limited liability insurance;  
32 requiring the owner of a dog classified as a dangerous  
33 dog to obtain dangerous dog liability insurance  
34 coverage and provide proof of such insurance to a  
35 certain animal control authority; providing  
36 requirements for such insurance; requiring and  
37 authorizing an animal control authority to humanely  
38 euthanize a dangerous dog under certain circumstances;  
39 requiring an animal shelter, a humane organization, or  
40 certain animal control agencies to provide specified  
41 information to potential adopters; revising the  
42 conditions under which an owner is authorized to  
43 exercise a dangerous dog; revising the civil penalty  
44 for violations; providing criminal penalties for  
45 persons who resist or obstruct an animal control  
46 authority; making technical changes; amending s.  
47 767.13, F.S.; increasing a penalty for the owner of a  
48 dog previously declared dangerous which attacks and  
49 causes severe injury to or the death of any human;  
50 making technical changes; conforming provisions to

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changes made by the act; amending s. 767.135, F.S.;  
making technical changes; conforming provisions to  
changes made by the act; amending s. 767.136, F.S.;  
increasing a penalty for the owner of a dog that  
causes severe injury to, or the death of, a human;  
providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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

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

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

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

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

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

767.10 Legislative findings.—The Legislature finds that  
dangerous dogs are an increasingly serious and widespread threat

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76 to the safety and welfare of the people of this state because of  
77 unprovoked attacks which cause injury to persons and domestic  
78 animals; that such attacks are in part attributable to the  
79 failure of owners to confine and properly train and control  
80 their dogs; that existing laws inadequately address this growing  
81 problem; and that it is appropriate and necessary to impose  
82 uniform requirements for dog ~~the owners of dangerous dogs~~.

83 Section 4. Section 767.11, Florida Statutes, is reordered  
84 and amended to read:

85 767.11 Definitions.—As used in this part ~~act~~, unless the  
86 context clearly requires otherwise:

87 (3) ~~(1)~~ "Dangerous dog" means a ~~any~~ dog that according to  
88 the records of the appropriate authority:

89 (a) Has aggressively bitten, attacked, or endangered or  
90 has inflicted severe injury on a human being on public or  
91 private property;

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

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

99 (7) ~~(2)~~ "Unprovoked" means that the victim who has been  
100 conducting himself or herself peacefully and lawfully has been

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101 bitten or chased in a menacing fashion or attacked by a dog.

102 (6)~~(3)~~ "Severe injury" means any physical injury that  
103 results in broken bones, multiple bites, or disfiguring  
104 lacerations requiring sutures or reconstructive surgery.

105 (5)~~(4)~~ "Proper enclosure ~~of a dangerous dog~~" means, while  
106 on the owner's property, a ~~dangerous~~ dog is securely confined  
107 indoors or in a securely enclosed and locked pen or structure,  
108 suitable to prevent the entry of young children and designed to  
109 prevent the dog ~~animal~~ from escaping. The ~~Such~~ pen or structure  
110 must ~~shall~~ have secure sides and a secure top to prevent the dog  
111 from escaping over, under, or through the structure and must  
112 ~~shall~~ also provide protection from the elements.

113 (1)~~(5)~~ "Animal control authority" means an entity acting  
114 alone or in concert with other local governmental units and  
115 authorized by them to enforce the animal control laws of the  
116 city, county, or state. In those areas not served by an animal  
117 control authority, the sheriff shall carry out the duties of the  
118 animal control authority under this part ~~act~~.

119 (2)~~(6)~~ "Animal control officer" means any individual  
120 employed, contracted with, or appointed by the animal control  
121 authority for the purpose of aiding in the enforcement of this  
122 part ~~act~~ or any other law or ordinance relating to the licensure  
123 of animals, control of animals, or seizure and impoundment of  
124 animals and includes any state or local law enforcement officer  
125 or other employee whose duties in whole or in part include

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126 assignments that involve the seizure and impoundment of an ~~any~~  
127 animal.

128 ~~(4)-(7)-~~ "Owner" means a ~~any~~ person, a firm, a corporation,  
129 or an organization possessing, harboring, keeping, or having  
130 control or custody of an animal or, if the animal is owned by a  
131 person under the age of 18, that person's parent or guardian.

132 Section 5. Section 767.12, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
133 read:

134 767.12 Classification of dogs as dangerous; owner  
135 requirements; penalty certification of registration; notice and  
136 hearing requirements; confinement of animal; exemption; appeals;  
137 unlawful acts.-

138 (1) An animal control authority shall investigate reported  
139 incidents involving any dog that may be dangerous and, if  
140 possible, shall interview the owner and require a sworn  
141 affidavit from any person, including any animal control officer  
142 or enforcement officer, desiring to have a dog classified as  
143 dangerous.

144 (a) An animal that is the subject of a dangerous dog  
145 investigation and that has killed a human being or has bitten a  
146 human being and left a bite mark that scores 5 or higher on the  
147 Dunbar bite scale must ~~because of severe injury to a human being~~  
148 ~~may~~ be immediately confiscated by an animal control authority; it  
149 placed in quarantine, if necessary, for the proper length of  
150 time; ~~it~~ or impounded; and held. The animal must ~~may~~ be held

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151 pending the outcome of the investigation and any hearings or  
152 appeals related to the dangerous dog classification or any  
153 penalty imposed under this section. If the dog is to be  
154 destroyed, the dog may not be destroyed while an appeal is  
155 pending. The owner is responsible for payment of all boarding  
156 costs and other fees as may be required to humanely and safely  
157 keep the animal pending any hearing or appeal.

158       (b) An animal that is the subject of any other a dangerous  
159 dog investigation may be immediately confiscated by an animal  
160 control authority; placed in quarantine, if necessary, for the  
161 proper length of time; impounded; and held. An animal that  
162 ~~investigation which~~ is not impounded with the animal control  
163 authority must be ~~humanely and safely~~ confined by the owner in a  
164 proper enclosure ~~securely fenced or enclosed area.~~ The animal  
165 ~~shall be confined in such manner~~ pending the outcome of the  
166 investigation and the resolution of any hearings or appeals  
167 related to the dangerous dog classification or any penalty  
168 imposed under this section. The owner shall provide the address  
169 at which the animal resides ~~shall be provided~~ to the animal  
170 control authority. A dog that is the subject of a dangerous dog  
171 investigation may not be relocated or have its ownership  
172 transferred pending the outcome of the investigation and any  
173 hearings or appeals related to the dangerous dog classification  
174 or any penalty imposed under this section. If a dog is to be  
175 destroyed, the dog may not be relocated or have its ownership

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176 transferred.

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

179       (a) The threat, injury, or damage was sustained by a  
180 person who, at the time, was unlawfully on the property or who,  
181 while lawfully on the property, was tormenting, abusing, or  
182 assaulting the dog or its owner or a family member.

183       (b) The dog was protecting or defending a human being  
184 within the immediate vicinity of the dog from an unjustified  
185 attack or assault.

186       (3) After the investigation, the animal control authority  
187 shall make an initial determination as to whether there is  
188 sufficient cause to classify the dog as dangerous and, if  
189 sufficient cause is found, as to the appropriate penalty ~~under~~  
190 ~~subsection (5)~~. The animal control authority shall afford the  
191 owner an opportunity for a hearing before ~~prior to~~ making a  
192 final determination regarding the classification or penalty. The  
193 animal control authority shall provide written notification of  
194 the sufficient cause finding and proposed penalty to the owner  
195 by registered mail or ~~7~~ certified hand delivery~~7~~, or service in  
196 conformance with the provisions of chapter 48 relating to  
197 service of process. The owner may file a written request for a  
198 hearing regarding the dangerous dog classification, penalty, or  
199 both, within 7 calendar days after receipt of the notification  
200 of the sufficient cause finding and proposed penalty. If the



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owner requests a hearing, the hearing must ~~shall~~ be held as soon as possible, but not later than 21 calendar days and not sooner than 5 days after receipt of the request from the owner. If a hearing is not timely requested regarding the dangerous dog classification or proposed penalty, the determination of the animal control authority as to such matter is ~~shall become~~ final. Each applicable local governing authority shall establish hearing procedures that conform to this subsection.

(4) Upon a dangerous dog classification and penalty becoming final after a hearing or by operation of law pursuant to subsection (3), the animal control authority shall provide a written final order to the owner by registered mail or ~~or~~ certified hand delivery or service in conformance with the provisions of chapter 48 relating to service of process. The owner may appeal the classification or ~~or~~ penalty, or both, to the circuit court in accordance with the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure after receipt of the final order. If the dog is not held by the animal control authority, the owner must confine the dog in a proper enclosure ~~securely fenced or enclosed area~~ pending resolution of the appeal. Each applicable local governing authority must establish appeal procedures that conform to this subsection.

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

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226           1. ~~Upon~~ Within 14 days after issuance of the final order  
227 classifying the dog as dangerous or the conclusion of any appeal  
228 that affirms such final order, obtain a certificate of  
229 registration for the dog from the animal control authority  
230 serving the area in which he or she resides, and renew the  
231 certificate annually. Animal control authorities may ~~are~~  
232 ~~authorized to~~ issue such certificates of registration, and  
233 renewals thereof, only to persons who are at least 18 years of  
234 age and who present to the animal control authority sufficient  
235 evidence of all of the following:

236           a. A current certificate of rabies vaccination for the  
237 dog.

238           b. A proper enclosure to confine the ~~a~~ dangerous dog and  
239 the posting of the premises with a clearly visible warning sign  
240 at all entry points which informs both children and adults of  
241 the presence of a dangerous dog on the property.

242           c. Permanent identification of the dog by, ~~such as a~~  
243 ~~tattoo on the inside thigh or electronic~~ implantation of a  
244 microchip. Any person who knowingly and willfully removes a  
245 microchip implanted pursuant to this sub-subparagraph commits a  
246 felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s.  
247 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

248           d. The dog having been spayed or neutered.

249           e. Liability insurance as required by subparagraph 2.  
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251 The appropriate governmental unit may impose an annual fee for  
252 the issuance of certificates of registration required by this  
253 section.

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

261 3. Immediately notify the appropriate animal control  
262 authority when the dog:

- 263 a. Is loose or unconfined;~~;~~  
264 b. Has bitten a human being or attacked another animal;~~;~~  
265 c. Is sold, given away, or dies; ~~or~~  
266 d. Is moved to another address.

267 4. Before selling or giving away the a dangerous dog, ~~is~~  
268 ~~sold or given away, the owner shall~~ provide the name, address,  
269 and telephone number of the new owner to the animal control  
270 authority.

271 a. The new owner must comply with ~~all of the requirements~~  
272 ~~of~~ this section and any implementing local ordinances, even if  
273 the animal is moved from one local jurisdiction to another  
274 within this the state, ~~and. The animal control officer~~ must  
275 notify the animal control authority ~~be notified by the owner of~~

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276 ~~a dog classified as dangerous~~ that the dog is in the authority's  
277 ~~his or her~~ jurisdiction.

278 b. If a dangerous dog has killed a human being or has  
279 bitten a human being and left a bite mark that scores 5 or  
280 higher on the Dunbar bite scale and is surrendered to an animal  
281 control authority, the authority must humanely euthanize the  
282 dog.

283 c. For any other dangerous dog that is surrendered to an  
284 animal control authority, the authority may humanely euthanize  
285 the dog. If the animal control authority elects to place the  
286 animal for adoption, it must post signage on the dog's enclosure  
287 to inform potential adopters that the dog has been declared  
288 dangerous and inform any adopter of the dog owner's requirements  
289 under this section. The animal control authority must provide a  
290 person who adopts a dangerous dog with a copy of the declaration  
291 and must require them to sign a contract with the authority  
292 agreeing to abide by the requirements of the declaration.

293 ~~5.3. Not allow permit~~ the dog to be outside a proper  
294 enclosure unless the dog is muzzled and restrained by a  
295 substantial chain or leash and under control of a competent  
296 person. The muzzle must be made in a manner that will not cause  
297 injury to the dog or interfere with its vision or respiration  
298 but will prevent it from biting a person or an animal. The owner  
299 may exercise the dog on the owner's property in a proper  
300 enclosure ~~securely fenced or enclosed area that does not have a~~

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301 ~~top,~~ without a muzzle or leash, if the dog remains within the  
302 owner's ~~his or her~~ sight and only members of the immediate  
303 household or persons 18 years of age or older, if applicable,  
304 are allowed in the enclosure when the dog is present. When being  
305 transported, such dogs must be safely and securely restrained  
306 within a vehicle.

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

312 (6) Hunting dogs are exempt from this section when engaged  
313 in any legal hunt or training procedure. Dogs engaged in  
314 training or exhibiting in legal sports such as obedience trials,  
315 conformation shows, field trials, hunting/retrieving trials, and  
316 herding trials are exempt from this section when engaged in any  
317 legal procedures. However, such dogs at all other times in all  
318 other respects are subject to this and local laws. Dogs that  
319 have been classified as dangerous may not be used for hunting  
320 purposes.

321 (7) A person who violates ~~any provision of~~ this section  
322 commits a noncriminal infraction, punishable by a fine not to  
323 exceed \$1,000 per violation. In addition, any person who resists  
324 or obstructs an animal control authority in enforcing this  
325 section commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as

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provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083 ~~\$500~~.

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

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

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

(2) If a dog that has previously been declared dangerous attacks and causes severe injury to or death of any human, the owner commits ~~is guilty of~~ a felony of the second ~~third~~ degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084. ~~In addition,~~ The dog must ~~shall~~ be immediately confiscated by an

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351 animal control authority;it placed in quarantine, if necessary,  
352 for the proper length of time; impounded; and ~~or~~ held for 10  
353 business days after the owner is given written notification  
354 under s. 767.12, and thereafter destroyed in an expeditious and  
355 humane manner. ~~This 10-day time period shall allow~~ The owner may  
356 ~~to~~ request a hearing under s. 767.12 during the 10 business days  
357 after such notification. The owner is ~~shall be~~ responsible for  
358 payment of all boarding costs and other fees as may be required  
359 to humanely and safely keep the animal during any appeal  
360 procedure.

361 Section 7. Section 767.135, Florida Statutes, is amended  
362 to read:

363 767.135 Attack or bite by unclassified dog that causes  
364 death; confiscation; destruction.—If a dog that has not been  
365 declared dangerous attacks and causes the death of a human, the  
366 dog must ~~shall~~ be immediately confiscated by an animal control  
367 authority;it placed in quarantine, if necessary, for the proper  
368 length of time; impounded; and ~~or~~ held for 10 business days  
369 after the owner is given written notification under s. 767.12,  
370 and thereafter destroyed in an expeditious and humane manner.  
371 ~~This 10-day time period shall allow~~ The owner may ~~to~~ request a  
372 hearing under s. 767.12 during the 10 business days after such  
373 notification. If the owner files a written appeal under s.  
374 767.12 or this section, the dog must be held and may not be  
375 destroyed while the appeal is pending. The owner is responsible

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for payment of all boarding costs and other fees as may be required to humanely and safely keep the animal during any appeal procedure.

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

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

(1) If a dog that has not been declared dangerous attacks and causes severe injury to, or the death of, a human, and the owner of the dog had knowledge of the dog's dangerous propensities, yet demonstrated a reckless disregard for such propensities under the circumstances, the owner of the dog commits a misdemeanor of the first ~~second~~ degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

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