

CHAPTER 203
HB 670-FN - FINAL VERSION

26Mar2025... 0325h
05/01/2025 1712s

2025 SESSION

25-0550
08/05

HOUSE BILL ***670-FN***

AN ACT adjusting the minimum fine for attacks by nuisance dogs.

SPONSORS: Rep. Turcotte, Straf. 4; Rep. Kuttab, Rock. 17; Rep. Ball, Rock. 25; Sen. Rochefort,
Dist 1

COMMITTEE: Criminal Justice and Public Safety

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill adjusts the minimum fine for attacks by nuisance dogs.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struck through.~~]
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Five

AN ACT adjusting the minimum fine for attacks by nuisance dogs.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 203:1 Penalties for Nuisance Dogs. Amend RSA 466:31-a to read as follows:

2 466:31-a Penalties.

3 I. Any person who violates any provision of RSA 466:31 shall be guilty of a violation; provided
4 that if such person chooses to pay the civil forfeiture specified in paragraph II, the person shall be deemed
5 to have waived the right to have the case heard in district or municipal court and shall not be prosecuted
6 or found guilty of a violation of RSA 466:31. Any person who does not pay the civil forfeiture specified in
7 paragraph II shall have the case disposed of in district or municipal court.

8 II. Any person who violates any of the provisions of RSA 466:31 shall be liable for a civil
9 forfeiture, which shall be paid to the clerk of the town or city wherein such dog is owned or kept within 96
10 hours of the date and time notice is given by any law enforcement officer or other person authorized by
11 the town to the owner or keeper of a dog in violation of RSA 466:31. If the forfeiture is paid, said payment
12 shall be in full satisfaction of the assessed penalty. The forfeiture shall be in the amount as specified for
13 the following violations:

14 (a) [~~\$25~~] **A warning** for the first nuisance offense under RSA 466:31, II(a), (b), (c) or (d);
15 [~~\$100~~] **\$50** for the second **offense committed within 12 months of the first nuisance offense under RSA**
16 **466:31, II(a), (b), (c), or (d); \$100 for the third** or subsequent nuisance offense committed within 12
17 months of the first nuisance offense under RSA 466:31, II(a), (b), (c) or (d).

18 (b) [~~\$50~~] **\$200** for the first menace offense under RSA 466:31, II(e) or (f); [~~\$200~~] **\$400** for the
19 second or subsequent menace offense committed within 12 months of the first menace offense under
20 RSA 466:31, II(e) or (f).

21 (c) [~~\$100~~] **\$400** for the first vicious offense under RSA 466:31, II(g). **Additionally, the owner**
22 **of the dog shall be liable for all medical bills sustained by the person who was attacked.**

23 (d) [~~\$400~~] **\$1,000** for the second or subsequent vicious offense committed within 12 months
24 of the first vicious offense under RSA 466:31, II(g). **Additionally, the owner of the dog shall be liable for all**
25 **medical bills sustained by the person who was attacked.**

26 III. Any person who pays a civil forfeiture specified in paragraph II 2 times in any 12-month period
27 according to the records of the town or city clerk, may not pay a civil forfeiture for subsequent violations of
28 RSA 466:31 in that 12-month period, but shall have those cases disposed of in district or municipal court.
29 In the case of a vicious dog, as described by RSA 466:31, II(g), where its behavior presents a threat to
30 public safety, immediate district court or municipal court proceedings [~~may~~] **shall** be initiated in lieu of the
31 civil forfeiture.

32 **IV. Nothing in this section is intended to limit any civil recovery that an individual may claim under**

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- 1 *RSA 466:19, or as otherwise allowed by law.*
- 2 203:2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2026.

Approved: July 15, 2025
Effective Date: January 01, 2026

