

HB 670-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2025 SESSION

25-0550

08/05

HOUSE BILL ***670-FN***

AN ACT raising 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

ANALYSIS

This bill raises 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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Five

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

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

1 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;
4 provided that if such person chooses to pay the civil forfeiture specified in paragraph II, the person
5 shall be deemed to have waived the right to have the case heard in district or municipal court and
6 shall not be prosecuted or found guilty of a violation of RSA 466:31. Any person who does not pay
7 the civil forfeiture specified in paragraph II shall have the case disposed of in district or municipal
8 court.

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

15 (a) [~~\$25~~] **\$100** for the first nuisance offense under RSA 466:31, II(a), (b), (c) or (d); [~~\$100~~]
16 **\$200** for the second or subsequent nuisance offense committed within 12 months of the first
17 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
19 the second or subsequent menace offense committed within 12 months of the first menace offense
20 under RSA 466:31, II(e) or (f).

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

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

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

HB 670-FN - AS INTRODUCED

- Page 2 -

- 1 presents a threat to public safety, immediate district court or municipal court proceedings [~~may~~
- 2 ***shall*** be initiated in lieu of the civil forfeiture.
- 3 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2026.

LBA
25-0550
1/2/25

**HB 670-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED**

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

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Legislative Budget Assistant has determined that this legislation has a total fiscal impact of less than \$10,000 in each of the fiscal years 2026 through 2028.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Judicial Branch and New Hampshire Municipal Association