

CHAPTER 272
HB 250 - FINAL VERSION

26Mar2025... 0896h
05/01/2025 1697s
26Jun2025... 2790CofC
26Jun2025... 2923EBA

2025 SESSION

25-0255
08/09

HOUSE BILL ***250***

AN ACT enabling local governing bodies to regulate the muzzling of dogs.

SPONSORS: Rep. Newell, Ches. 4; Rep. N. Germana, Ches. 15; Rep. Jacobs, Ches. 15; Rep. O'Rourke, Ches. 7; Rep. Jones, Ches. 3

COMMITTEE: Environment and Agriculture

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill enables local governing bodies to regulate the muzzling of dogs and excludes certain working dogs from such regulations.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 enabling local governing bodies to regulate the muzzling of dogs.

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

- 1 272:1 City or Town Bylaws; Restraint of Dogs. Amend RSA 466:39 to read as follows:
- 2 466:39 City or Town Bylaws. The local governing body may make such additional bylaws and
- 3 regulations concerning the licensing, ***muzzling of vicious dogs as defined in RSA 466:31, II(g)***, and
- 4 restraining of dogs as it deems reasonable, and may affix penalties not exceeding \$50 for a breach
- 5 thereof. Such bylaws and regulations shall relate only to dogs owned or kept in such city or town, and the
- 6 annual fee required for a license shall in no case be more than \$1 in addition to the sum hereby required.
- 7 ***The following dogs shall be exempt from this section: dogs being used for hunting, supervised***
- 8 ***competition, exhibition or training for such activities if accompanied by the owner or custodian, or a dog***
- 9 ***which is guarding, working, or herding livestock, as defined in RSA 21:34-a, II(a)(4) if the owner or***
- 10 ***custodian is able to see or hear the dog or have reasonable knowledge of where the dog is located, even***
- 11 ***if such dog is out of the line of the owner or custodian's sight.***

272:2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

Approved: August 01, 2025
Effective Date: September 30, 2025