

Judiciary Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: SB-260 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING ROAMING DOGS.

Vote Date: 3/30/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/27/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Judiciary Committee

CO-SPONSORS OF BILL:

Sen. Patricia Billie Miller, 27th District

REASONS FOR BILL:

The purpose of this bill is to revise and strengthen the statutory provisions governing dogs that roam at large by clarifying the obligations of owners and keepers to ensure such dogs are not on the land of another or on any public highway without being attended or under control. This bill establishes that the unauthorized presence of a dog in such circumstances shall constitute prima facie evidence of a violation, thereby facilitating enforcement. It further authorizes animal control officers to seek orders from the Superior court including injunctive relief to enforce compliance with these provisions. Moreover, this bill restructures the penalty framework by imposing fines for first and subsequent violations. It provides that repeated violations within a one-year period may result in classification as a class C misdemeanor. The bill imposes heightened penalties where an owner or keeper knows of a dog's propensities, and intentionally or recklessly permits such dog to roam at large. Such conduct is subject to increased penalties when it results in physical injury to another person. These revisions aim to improve enforcement mechanisms and penalties associated with violations of the statute.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

The substitute language is a technical change correcting a subsection reference in line 110.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Afron Abdo: Afron Abdo supports this legislation because he emphasizes that many Muslims own and care for dogs and states that "dogs can unite America and the world," urging support for bill.

Pat Albright: Pat Albright supports this legislation because he expresses strong personal support for protecting his dog and indicates he would defend that right.

Karen Babb: Karen Babb supports this legislation because she argues it affirms dog ownership as an American value and urges lawmakers to support protections for dogs.

Eddie Bayot, Dog Owner: Eddie Bayot supports this legislation because he expresses a strong personal preference for dogs and supports protecting them.

Domino Brooklyn, Dogs Every Time, American Patriot: Dominic Brooklyn supports this legislation because he highlights the value of dogs, like their roles in guiding, detecting illness, and providing protection and companionship.

Debra Feldman: Debra Feldman supports this legislation because she recounts a detailed incident in which her leashed dog was attacked and killed by a roaming dog, emphasizing the severe emotional and personal harm caused and the need for stronger enforcement.

Holly Fontaine, CT Animal Advocate: Holly Fontaine supports this legislation and believes what needs to be addressed is why dogs are roaming. She also expressed frustration with animal control officers inconsistently being on duty.

Bryce Ford: Bryce Ford supports this legislation and expresses general personal support for dogs.

Representative Eilish Collins Main, 146th District: Representative Main supports this legislation because she emphasizes that current fines are not an adequate deterrent. Representative Main supports stiffer fines and consequences for owners who knowingly or recklessly allow dogs to roam at large, especially considering a constituent's experience with a fatal dog attack.

Kathleen Nease: Kathleen Nease supports this legislation because she expresses strong personal attachment to dogs and believes they should be treated with the highest respect.

Kim Ruppert: Kim Ruppert supports this legislation because she expresses support for leash laws and responsible dog ownership, though she also notes that roaming can be natural in other ways.

Debbie Sullivan: Debbie Sullivan supports this legislation because she argues that dogs play an important role in society and that the bill would recognize their importance and promote their well-being.

Michael Thompson: Michael Thompson supports the legislation because he describes dogs as a gift and expresses strong personal appreciation for them.

Kandace Williams: Kandace Williams supports this legislation because she believes it protects dogs and expresses appreciation for the bill's approach.

David Youell: David Youell supports this legislation because he emphasizes that dogs are family and supports protecting them from perceived threats.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Anonymous 6: Testimony without attribution was submitted in opposition to the bill because they argue the issue should be addressed through non-criminal measures and that it creates unnecessary bureaucracy and regulation, along with wasting tax resources.

Blake Shipp: Blake Shipp opposes this legislation because he expresses general disagreement with the need for the bill.

Reported by: Shahbano Rao

Date: April 6, 2026