

Families and Dogs Against Fighting Breeds

FDAFB.org
PMB 1463 E. Republican

Washington State HB 1018 Fails Again; Third Failure for Pro-Pit bull advocates

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Sponsored by Rep. Sherry Appleton D- Poulsbo, a Pit bull owner and advocate, HB 1018 failed to make it out of the Rules committee and onto the floor of the Washington State House of Representatives. Colloquially called the Canine Anti-Discrimination Bill, this bill would have taken away local control from cities and counties, by preventing all local governments from enacting and enforcing any new Breed-Specific Legislation (BSL) in Washington State.

HB 1018 was called “nuisance “ legislation by several legislators, because only 27 cities out of about 218 cities in our state have enacted breed-specific laws. Only 12 cities completely ban Pit bulls in Washington. In 15 other cities, Pit bulls and several other breeds are prima facie designated “potentially dangerous,” to prevent “first” bites and attacks. HB 1018 would have forced all jurisdictions with breed-specific laws to comply with the unreasonable imposition of allowing for the “forever” testing and re-testing of the AKC Good Citizen test—until the dog passes—so the animal can be exempted from the local breed-specific ordinance. Every two years after the dog successfully passes the test, according to HB 1018, the dog must be re-tested to maintain

its exempt status, again another burden on extremely underfunded animal control departments.

The most precarious aspect of HB 1018, however, is that it would have prevented the remaining 190 plus cities and all counties from ever enacting and enforcing a breed-specific ordinance should their jurisdiction need to. None of the 39 County governments, which regulate Animal Control issues, would be able to pass BSL in the future.

According to Colleen Lynn, the founder of Dogsbite.org, an organization that advocates for victims of serious and fatal dog maulings, HB 1018 is part of a national movement, primarily driven by Utah-based fighting dog advocates, Best Friends Animal Society, and dog breeder interest groups, to pass a statewide preemption bill, revoking all local breed-specific ordinances, in all 50 states.

Based in Texas, Lynn said that Washington luckily escaped the ramifications of such a state law. “The consequences of the Texas pre-emptive anti-BSL bill that passed in 1991 have been horrific,” Lynn said. “Texas continues to lead all states in the U.S. in fatal dog attacks, and has for many years,” she said.

Ellen Taft of Families and Dogs against Fighting breeds (FDAFB.org), an affiliate of Dogsbite.org, has been successful in fighting off attempts to repeal local breed-specific ordinances. In September of 2014, she and a group of BSL advocates lobbied the Enumclaw city council and changed 8 votes, so that their Pit bull ban was maintained.

“I was shocked to find out that not only was Rep. Appleton a Democrat, but that all of the Democrats on the House Judiciary Committee voted for HB 1018 to go to the Rules Committee.” said Taft, a Chicago Irish Catholic Democrat who regularly votes for Socialist Candidates. “Gun violence is a big issue among Democrats and the legalization

of Pit bulls and fighting breeds allows for a violent activity that goes hand-in-hand with other felonious activities,” says Taft. Felons cannot legally own a gun, but can own up to three Pit bulls in the city of Seattle and elsewhere, and thereby are free to use in their “operations” and to intimidate and terrorize a neighborhood, particularly poorer ones.

Taft added that she was stunned to learn that Democrats supported removing local control from cities and counties. “It goes against all Democratic principals to strip local control from governments,” Taft said. “Local control is why Seattle was able to pass a new and higher minimum wage.” Further, she added, “In December a judge upheld Seattle's “gun violence” tax after the National Rifle Association claimed the measure violated a state preemption law, barring municipalities from enacting firearm legislation.”

“If a jurisdiction is experiencing a problem with pit bulls and other fighting breeds, that local government deserves the right to protect the health and safety of their citizens,” Taft said. Rep. Appleton’s bill would have placed children and older adults at risk, as well as pets and livestock.

More information

11 year study of Dog Bite Related Fatalities by Breed-

64 % by Pit bulls, 11% by Rottweilers

<http://www.dogsbite.org/pdf/11-year-dog-bite-fatality-chart-dogsbiteorg.pdf>

2015 fatality statistics

82 % of 2015 Fatalities caused by Pit bulls-6% of the Canine population

<http://www.dogsbite.org/dog-bite-statistics-fatalities-2015.php>