

1191

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

January 5, 2011

Introduced by Sens. BRESLIN, ADAMS, DILAN, PARKER, SAMPSON, SAVINO --
read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to
the Committee on Judiciary

AN ACT to amend the general obligations law, in relation to liability of
owners for dog bites

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEM-
BLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. The general obligations law is amended by adding a new
2 section 11-108 to read as follows:
3 S 11-108. LIABILITY OF OWNER OF DOG; INJURY TO OTHERS; EXCEPTIONS. 1.
4 NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, THE OWNER OF A DOG SHALL BE
5 STRICTLY LIABLE FOR MEDICAL COSTS RESULTING FROM AN INDIVIDUAL BEING
6 BITTEN BY SUCH OWNER'S DOG. IN ORDER TO RECEIVE ANY COMPENSATION ABOVE
7 AND BEYOND MEDICAL COSTS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION, THE
8 VICTIM MUST PROVE THE DOG HAD DANGEROUS OR VICIOUS PROPENSITIES AND THE
9 OWNER HAD KNOWLEDGE OF SUCH PROPENSITIES.
10 2. NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL AUTHORIZE THE BRINGING OF AN ACTION
11 PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION ONE OF THIS SECTION AGAINST ANY PERSON, GOVERN-
12 MENTAL ENTITY OR INSTRUMENTALITY USING A POLICE WORK DOG, HEARING DOG OR
13 SERVICE DOG FOR ITS INTENDED PURPOSE IF THE BITE OR BITES OCCURRED WHILE
14 THE DOG WAS DEFENDING ITSELF FROM AN ANNOYING, HARASSING OR PROVOKING
15 ACT, OR ASSISTING AN EMPLOYEE OF THE ENTITY OR LOCALITY IN THE PERFORM-
16 ANCE OF THEIR OFFICIAL DUTIES.
17 3. THIS SECTION SHALL NOT BE DEEMED TO LIMIT OR IMPAIR ANY CAUSE OF
18 ACTION AUTHORIZED PURSUANT TO ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW AVAILABLE TO A
19 PERSON INJURED AS A RESULT OF A DOG BITE OR BITES. THE PROVISIONS OF
20 THIS SECTION SHALL BE IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER STATUTORY REMEDIES.
21 S 2. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall
22 have become a law.

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

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