

ASSEMBLYMAN
Juan Alanis
22ND DISTRICT

AB 2574 – Notice of Owner’s Rights for Potentially Dangerous or Vicious Dogs

SUMMARY

Assembly Bill 2574 empowers dog owners by requiring local governments to provide clear, written notice of their rights when a dog is deemed potentially dangerous or vicious. This bill also elevates the standard of evidence used in these determinations to ensure reliability and fairness. Additionally, it mandates that local governments follow specified statutory hearing procedures, enhancing transparency in the process while promoting public safety through informed, accountable decisions that protect communities from genuine risks.

EXISTING LAW

Under current state law, the hearing and notification processes for dogs deemed potentially dangerous or vicious are optional for local governments, leading to inconsistencies. This means many owners are not automatically informed of their rights, such as the ability to request a hearing or present evidence. Without mandatory standards, transparency varies widely, potentially undermining public safety by allowing uneven enforcement and less reliable outcomes in animal control cases.

WHY THIS BILL MATTERS

AB 2574 prioritizes boosting dog owner awareness by guaranteeing they receive detailed written notices outlining their rights, enabling them to actively participate in the process. At the same time, it strengthens public safety by establishing a higher evidentiary standard and uniform hearing procedures, ensuring determinations are based on credible information rather than arbitrary local

variations. This increased transparency fosters trust in the system, protects communities from dangerous animals, and safeguards owners from unfair rulings, creating a balanced approach that benefits everyone.

IF ENACTED INTO LAW

If enacted, AB 2574 would create statewide standards to heighten dog owner awareness through mandatory written notices that clearly explain rights and options. It would also implement a more robust evidentiary threshold to support accurate assessments, while requiring adherence to transparent hearing protocols. Ultimately, the bill aims to enhance public safety by promoting reliable, consistent enforcement, while reinforcing due process and transparency in animal control proceedings.

CONTACT:

Gabriela Gutierrez
(916) 319-2022

gabriela.gutierrez@asm.ca.gov