

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025

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S.B. 385  
PRINCIPAL CLERK

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SENATE BILL DRS15174-MH-79

Short Title: Amend Dangerous Dog Statutes.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Meyer and Moffitt (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A PROCEDURE FOR SETTING ASIDE A POTENTIALLY  
3 DANGEROUS DOG DESIGNATION.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 67-4.1 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

6 "(d) Set Aside of Potentially Dangerous Dog Designation. – For purposes of this  
7 subsection, "authority" means the county or municipal authority responsible for animal control.  
8 An owner of a dog determined to be a "potentially dangerous dog" under subsection (c) of this  
9 section may request in writing to the authority at any time more than 18 months after the date of  
10 that determination that it be set aside by following the procedures in this subsection:

11 (1) Application and assessment required. – The request for set aside of the  
12 potentially dangerous dog determination shall be made on an application  
13 provided by the authority. The authority may charge a fee to cover the costs  
14 of processing and review of the application. The application must also be  
15 accompanied by an assessment of the dog completed by a person approved by  
16 the authority and accredited by the Certification Council for Professional Dog  
17 Trainers or another accrediting body recognized and approved by the  
18 authority. The assessment must include, at a minimum, an evaluation of the  
19 behavior underlying the declaration that the dog was a potentially dangerous  
20 dog and the owner's or keeper's ability to manage the dog.

21 (2) Factors considered in determination. – The authority shall consider all of the  
22 following in reaching its determination:

23 a. The outcomes of the assessment described in subdivision (1) of this  
24 subsection.

25 b. The nature of the original behaviors that led to the "potentially  
26 dangerous dog" determination and any other reasons for the original  
27 determination.

28 c. The management and care of the animal since the determination.

29 d. Any changes in the animal's behavior since the declaration due to the  
30 animal's age, environment, training, or other factors found to be  
31 relevant by the authority.

32 (3) Decision on declaration. – The authority may revoke the declaration if, after  
33 considering the application, the assessment, and the factors described in  
34 subdivision (2) of this subsection, the authority determines the dog is no  
35 longer potentially dangerous. The authority shall issue written findings to the  
36 owner or keeper stating the basis for his or her decision and, if the authority



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1                   has denied the revocation, the date upon which the owner or keeper may make  
2                   a new request that the determination be set aside. The authority's decision to  
3                   set aside or not set aside a potentially dangerous dog declaration is final and  
4                   not subject to any administrative or judicial appeal. No liability shall attach to  
5                   any municipality, county, or any employee or officer thereof for a decision  
6                   made in accordance with this subsection."

7                   **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2025.