

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 194

BY REPRESENTATIVE COATES

CRIMINAL/PENALTIES: Provides relative to the crimes of owning dangerous and vicious dogs

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 14:102.14(F) and 102.15(C), relative to unlawful ownership of  
3 certain dogs; to provide for penalties for the unlawful ownership of a dangerous dog;  
4 to provide for penalties for the unlawful ownership of a vicious dog; and to provide  
5 for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 14:102.14(F) and 102.15(C) is hereby amended and reenacted to read  
8 as follows:

9 §102.14. Unlawful ownership of dangerous dog

10 \* \* \*

11 F. Whoever violates the provisions of this Section shall be ~~fin~~~~ed not more~~  
12 ~~than three hundred dollars.~~ punished as follows:

13 (1) For a first offense, a fine of two hundred fifty dollars, imprisonment for  
14 not more than six months, or both.

15 (2) For a second offense, a fine of not less than five hundred dollars nor  
16 more than one thousand dollars, or imprisonment, with or without hard labor, for not  
17 less than three months nor more than six months, or both. In addition, the court shall  
18 order the offender to perform fifteen eight-hour days of court-approved community  
19 service. The community service requirement shall not be suspended.



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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 194 Original

2024 Regular Session

Coates

**Abstract:** Increases the penalties for unlawful ownership of a dangerous dog and unlawful ownership of a vicious dog.

Present law (R.S. 14:102.14) provides for the crime of unlawful ownership of a dangerous dog.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 14:102.14(F)) provides that whoever violates present law shall be fined not more than \$300.

Proposed law amends present law to provide for the following penalties:

- (1) For a first offense, a fine of \$250, imprisonment for not more than six months, or both.
- (2) For a second offense, a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000, or imprisonment, with or without hard labor, for not less than three months nor more than six months, or both. Further requires the court to order the offender to perform 15 eight-hour days of court-approved community service and provides that the community service requirement shall not be suspended.
- (3) For a third or subsequent offense, a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000, and imprisonment, with or without hard labor, for not less than six months nor more than one year. Further provides that at least three months of the sentence imposed shall be served without benefit of parole, probation, or suspension of sentence.

Present law (R.S. 14:102.15) provides for the crime of unlawful ownership of a vicious dog.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 14:102.15(C)) provides that whoever violates present law shall be fined not more than \$500 or imprisoned for not more than six months, or both.

Proposed law amends present law to provide for the following penalties:

- (1) For a first offense, a fine of \$500, imprisonment for not more than six months, or both.
- (2) For a second offense, a fine of not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$2,000, or imprisonment, with or without hard labor, for not less than six months nor more than one year, or both. Further requires the court to order the offender to perform 15 eight-hour days of court-approved community service and provides that the community service requirement shall not be suspended.
- (3) For a third or subsequent offense, a fine of not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$2,000, and imprisonment, with or without hard labor, for not less than one year nor more than three years. Further provides that at least six months of the sentence

imposed shall be served without benefit of parole, probation, or suspension of sentence.

(Amends R.S. 14:102.14(F) and 102.15(C))