
DIGEST

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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))