

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 784

BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHAMERHORN

LIABILITY/CIVIL: Provides relative to liability for damages caused by livestock

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact Civil Code Article 2321, relative to liability for damages caused by  
3 livestock; to provide for strict liability under certain circumstances; to provide for  
4 exceptions; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. Civil Code Article 2321 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as  
7 follows:

8 Art. 2321. Damage caused by animals; livestock

9 A. The owner of an animal, including livestock, is answerable for the  
10 damage caused by the animal. However, he is answerable for the damage only upon  
11 a showing that he knew or, in the exercise of reasonable care, should have known  
12 that his animal's behavior would cause damage, that the damage could have been  
13 prevented by the exercise of reasonable care, and that he failed to exercise such  
14 reasonable care.

15 B. Nonetheless, the owner of a dog is strictly liable for damages for injuries  
16 to persons or property caused by the dog and which the owner could have prevented  
17 and which did not result from the injured person's provocation of the dog.

18 C. The owner of livestock is liable for damages for injuries to persons or  
19 property caused by the livestock that escape an enclosure and the owner could have  
20 prevented by an exercise of reasonable care. The owner of livestock is not liable for

- 1 damages for injuries to person or property for livestock that escape an enclosure due  
2 to any of the following:
- 3 (1) A fortuitous event.  
4 (2) No fault of the owner.  
5 (3) Third party provocation of the livestock.
- 6 D. Nothing in this Article shall preclude the court from the application of the  
7 doctrine of res ipsa loquitur in an appropriate case.
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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 784 Engrossed

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Schamerhorn

**Abstract:** Provides for liability for damages caused by livestock that escape an enclosure.

Present law provides that the owner of an animal is answerable for the damages caused by an animal upon showing that he knew or in the exercise of reasonable care should have known that the animal would cause damage.

Proposed law extends present law to include livestock.

Present law provides that the owner of a dog is liable for injuries caused by the dog which the owner could have prevented and which did not result from provocation of the dog.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law provides that the owner of livestock is not liable for damages for injuries to person or property for livestock that escape an enclosure due to a fortuitous event, no fault of the owner, or third party provocation of the livestock.

(Amends C.C. Art. 2321)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure to the original bill:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Remove reference to strict liability.
3. Specify that livestock owners are not liable for livestock that escape under certain factors listed in proposed law.