

1 S.222

2 Introduced by Senators Lyons and MacDonald

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Health; town health officer; animal quarantine; rulemaking

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the
7 Commissioner of Health to adopt by rule a procedure that a town health officer
8 and other town officials shall adhere to when a person is bitten by an
9 unimmunized dog.

10 An act relating to establishing quarantine procedures for unimmunized dogs

11 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

12 Sec. 1. RULEMAKING; QUARANTINE PROCEDURES

13 (a) Pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25, the Commissioner of Health shall
14 adopt by rule a procedure that shall be followed in the event that the town
15 health officer or other town official receives a report that an unimmunized dog
16 has bitten a person within the town health officer or other town official's
17 jurisdiction. Specifically, the rule shall address:

18 (1) the manner in which a dog is admitted to a qualified quarantine
19 facility and who makes that determination;

1 (2) how a dog is released from a qualified quarantine facility and who
2 makes that determination;

3 (3) the manner utilized for authorizing the release of a dog from a
4 qualified quarantine facility, whether it be in person or by telephone, e-mail,
5 fax, or some other form of communication;

6 (4) who has the authority to call for a quarantine in the event the health
7 officer determines the dog owner may not be able to conduct a quarantine on
8 the owner's premises;

9 (5) appeal procedures for authorized quarantines; and

10 (6) specifications as to the financial obligations of the involved parties.

11 (b) The rule adopted pursuant to this section shall specify that, within one
12 year of its adoption, the handbook created by the Department of Health for
13 town health officers, other town officials, and employees of the Department of
14 Health be amended to incorporate this rule.

15 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

16 This act shall take effect on January 1, 2021.