TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The Committee on Judiciary to which was referred House Bill No. 307 entitled “An act relating to strict liability for damages caused by domestic dogs” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL REGULATION; DOG BITE CLAIMS IN VERMONT; REPORT

On or before January 15, 2021, the Department of Financial Regulation shall report to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development, the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs, and the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary with:

(1) the Department’s analysis of claims filed in Vermont regarding damages caused by domestic dogs, in comparison with national and regional statistics, as a part of its update of the underwriting criteria survey to determine the potential impact of a strict liability standard for damages caused by domestic dogs on insurance rates for dog owners in Vermont; and

(2) the Department’s analysis of those states that employ a strict liability standard for damages caused by domestic dogs and the impact of those laws on the states’ homeowners’ insurance rates and the availability of homeowners’ insurance in those states.
Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

(Committee vote: ___________)

_______________________

Representative ___________

FOR THE COMMITTEE