

1 HB547  
2 176414-1  
3 By Representative Martin  
4 RFD: Public Safety and Homeland Security  
5 First Read: 19-APR-16

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, the owner of a vicious  
9 or dangerous animal may be liable for any damages  
10 or injuries for careless management of the animal.

11 This bill would provide further for the  
12 liability of an owner for careless management, for  
13 allowing the animal to roam off the owner's  
14 property, or for allowing the animal to cause  
15 injury or damage to another person.

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17 A BILL  
18 TO BE ENTITLED  
19 AN ACT

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21 To amend Section 3-1-3, Code of Alabama 1975,  
22 relating to vicious or dangerous animals; to provide further  
23 for the liability of the animal owner.

24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

25 Section 1. Section 3-1-3, Code of Alabama 1975, is  
26 amended to read as follows:

27 "§3-1-3.

1           "(a) When any person owns or keeps a vicious or  
2 dangerous animal of any kind and, as a result of his or her  
3 careless management of the same or his or her allowing the  
4 same to go at liberty, and another person, without fault on  
5 his or her part, is injured thereby, such owner or keeper  
6 shall be liable in damages for such injury.

7           "(b) An owner or keeper who fails to properly  
8 contain the animal on his or her property may be responsible  
9 for any and all damages caused by the free-roaming animal  
10 including, but not limited to, the following:

11           "(1) Medical expenses.

12           "(2) Damages to the property of another, including  
13 fencing or livestock resulting from the animal's presence.

14           "(3) Any costs related to capture or containment of  
15 the animal by local officials."

16           Section 2. This act shall become effective on the  
17 first day of the third month following its passage and  
18 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.