



MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

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Sen. Matt Bartle's Dog Attack Protection Bill to be Heard in Committee

JEFFERSON CITY – Sen. Matt Bartle's responsible dog ownership legislation, [Senate Bill 834](#), will be presented Monday in the Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill penalizes the owners of dogs that injure people or property and gives victims of dog attacks the unquestionable right to defend themselves or their families if they have a reasonable fear of immediate danger.

Sen. Bartle (R-Lee's Summit) sponsored this legislation following a vicious dog attack in his own county. Steve and Kristi McBee, a Jackson County couple, went jogging in their neighborhood one evening last September when they were attacked by a bull mastiff that was intent on killing them both. The couple narrowly survived the attack after Steve managed to pry the dog from his wife and kill the animal after a lengthy struggle, but not without suffering permanent wounds.

"Unfortunately, the assault on the McBees is not an isolated incident," Sen. Bartle said. "We must do everything in our power to prevent vicious dog attacks and punish their negligent owners while protecting our neighborhoods — and before someone is senselessly killed."

Senate Bill 834 gives immunity from liability or criminal prosecution to those who have a rational fear that they are in imminent danger of being harmed by a dog and manage to kill or injure the attacking animal in the process. It also strengthens the rights of citizens to protect their homes and property from a dog that repeatedly trespasses and makes them afraid for their safety. Owners of vicious dogs who attack

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people or property will be liable for any damages as well as face tougher penalties. The bill also authorizes the authorities to destroy any dog that is a habitual attacker.

“As a country, we love our pets, especially our dogs,” Sen. Bartle said. “However, irresponsible owners who jeopardize the safety of their communities should not be tolerated and people who are attacked by dogs should be well within their rights to defend themselves without fear.”

The McBee family will be present at the Senate Judiciary hearing on Monday to voice their support of the senator’s legislation.

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