

CHAPTER 155
HB 338-FN - FINAL VERSION

8Apr2021... 0395h
05/13/2021 1296s

2021 SESSION

21-0263
08/06

HOUSE BILL ***338-FN***

AN ACT relative to penalties for dog theft and tampering with a dog's radio collar.

SPONSORS: Rep. Sullivan, Sull. 1; Rep. Rollins, Sull. 6; Rep. Goley, Hills. 8; Rep. Comtois,
Belk. 7

COMMITTEE: Criminal Justice and Public Safety

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill makes the first instance of the crime of dog theft a misdemeanor, the second instance a class B felony, and any subsequent instance a class A felony.

This bill also makes it a crime to remove certain collars from certain dogs.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty One

AN ACT relative to penalties for dog theft and tampering with a dog's radio collar.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 155:1 Stealing Dogs; Tampering With Collars. RSA 466:42-a is repealed and reenacted to read
2 as follows:

3 466:42-a Stealing Dogs; Tampering With Collars.

4 I. Whoever steals a dog shall be guilty of a misdemeanor for the first and second offense, and
5 a class B felony for each subsequent offense.

6 II. Whoever distributes or exposes a poisonous substance with intent that the same shall be
7 eaten by any dog shall be liable to the dog's owner for its value and shall be guilty of a class B felony.

8 III.(a) An individual other than the owner or the authorized agent of the owner of a dog,
9 shall not willfully or maliciously remove, tamper with, damage, or destroy a collar, tracking collar, or
10 other electronic device placed on a dog by its owner to maintain control or locate the dog.

11 (b) An individual other than the owner or the authorized agent of the owner of a dog,
12 shall not remove or cause to be removed a microchip from such dog.

13 (c) An individual who violates this paragraph shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

14 (d) Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to affect the actions of law enforcement,
15 animal control, or an animal shelter in removing a collar or tracking collar if the dog is in imminent
16 danger or after 7 consecutive days under RSA 466:18-a, and given that all possible effort was made
17 to locate the dog's owner and documentation to that effect is maintained for one year.

18 155:2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2022.

Approved: July 28, 2021
Effective Date: January 01, 2022

