

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 4054

By Delegate Pritt

[Introduced January 14, 2026; referred to the
Committee on the Judiciary]

- 1 A BILL to amend and reenact §19-20-20 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
2 to prohibiting the keeping any vicious pet and permitting a vicious pet to be killed.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 20. DOGS, AND CATS, AND OTHER PETS.

§19-20-20. Keeping vicious ~~dogs~~ pets; humane officers may kill such ~~dogs~~ pets.

- 1 Except as provided in ~~section twenty-one of this article~~ §19-20-21 of this code, no person
2 shall own, keep, or harbor any ~~dog~~ pet known by him or her to be vicious, dangerous, or in the
3 habit of biting or attacking ~~other persons~~ people, whether or not such ~~dog~~ pet wears a tag or
4 muzzle. Upon satisfactory proof before a circuit court or magistrate that such ~~dog~~ pet is vicious,
5 dangerous, or in the habit of biting or attacking ~~other persons~~ people or other ~~dogs or~~ animals, the
6 judge may authorize the humane officer to cause such ~~dog~~ pet to be killed.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to prohibit the ownership of any vicious pet.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law
and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.