



Breed-Specific Legislation Introduced

Senator Jackie Speier (D-Hillsborough) introduced legislation on June 21 that would allow individual cities and counties to enact rules regarding specific dog breeds. The CVMA is opposing the legislation and created a [fact sheet](#) on the issue.

While we are concerned by the recent dog mauling incidents involving children and pit bulls, breed-specific legislation is not the solution. Determining which dog breeds are “vicious” will be extremely difficult, and dog owners may actually be less likely to license their dogs and get necessary vaccinations if they believe they will be identified as owners of so-called “vicious breeds.”

Current state law prohibits cities and counties from passing any laws that target a breed of dog. [SB 861](#), which was formerly a Medi-Cal bill, would not ban specific dog breeds.

Instead, the bill states that local governments would no longer be prohibited "from adopting a program regulating dangerous and vicious dogs that is specific as to breed pertaining to mandatory spay or neuter programs and breeding requirements." This amended bill also includes a provision that requires all jurisdictions that do implement such programs to provide quarterly statistical dog bite reports to the state veterinarian.

A hearing on SB 861 was held in the Assembly Local Government Committee on June 29. The bill passed out of the committee on a vote of 4-3.

(A205)

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