

By: Ellis

S.B. No. 349

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the regulation of dangerous pets by certain populous counties; providing a criminal penalty.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 822, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subchapter F to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER F. DANGEROUS PETS

Sec. 822.151. APPLICABILITY. This subchapter applies only to a county with a population of 3.3 million or more.

Sec. 822.152. COUNTIES MAY ADOPT ORDERS. The commissioners court of a county by order may prohibit or otherwise regulate in the county the keeping of pets the court determines are dangerous.

Sec. 822.153. FEE. As part of the regulation, the commissioners court may impose a fee on the person who owns or keeps a dangerous pet for any action the county takes with regard to the pet, including:

(1) issuing a permit or other form of authorization to keep the pet;

(2) performing an inspection of the premises where the pet is kept; or

(3) confining, evaluating, or testing the pet.

Sec. 822.154. CRIMINAL PENALTY. (a) A person commits an offense if the person fails to comply with an order adopted under

1 this subchapter.

2 (b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), an offense under
3 this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

4 (c) An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor
5 if it is shown on the trial of the offense that the defendant has
6 previously been convicted under this section.

7 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.