

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
For HB 3756

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Hearing Date: March 29, 2023 8:00 AM

Ian Randolph
Animal Legal Defense Fund
Austin, TX

Dear Chairman Leach and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Animal Legal Defense Fund, I am writing to offer the strongest support FOR HB 3756 by Rep. Flores. As a southern state, Texas can experience some of the highest temperatures in the country, especially during summer months. People love their pets, consider them part of the family, and often take their pets with them when out of the home and leave them in the car with the windows cracked while they run 'a quick errand.' Unfortunately, people often don't realize that the temperature in a car can increase 20 degrees in just 10 minutes. Dogs and other companion animals do not cool themselves like humans leaving them vulnerable to heat stroke within a short period of time. Being trapped in a car, even with the windows cracked, could turn deadly for them in a matter of minutes.

Texas should join the 14 other states that have similar Good Samaritan laws that include animals in providing civil immunity for rescuers provided they follow a few commonsense steps. These guidelines include verifying that the car is locked, the animal cannot escape without assistance, contacting law enforcement, and remaining with the animal and car until law enforcement arrives. This precludes 'smash and grabs' because there is no immunity if the guidelines are not followed. Additionally, there has been no evidence of this happening in other states that have passed these laws.

This law simply allows compassionate citizens to act properly and compassionately without fear of repercussions to prevent an unnecessary death. Texas is one of the top four hottest states in the country and, since 2021, has documented at least 14 animals having died after being left in hot cars. However, many more of these cases go unreported. Whatever the number is of these preventable tragedies that occur every year in Texas, we must make an effort to reduce them by passing HB 3756.

Thank you.

Caitlin Sullivan
Self
San Antonio, TX

In Texas, the interior of a vehicle can quickly reach upwards of 110 degrees in the dead of summer. As a Texan, I cannot imagine being trapped within the walls of a baking vehicle in the summer. If animals, including dogs, cats, and other companion animals, are trapped within, their health and wellbeing may deteriorate in minutes. It would be a shame—and wholly unnecessary—if animals were to die in the Texas heat that could have been easily saved had a Good Samaritan intervened. That is precisely why it is crucial to pass H.B. 3756, which grants civil immunity to Good Samaritans who do so. Moreover, the bill imposes reasonable limits—the Good Samaritan must first determine that the vehicle is locked, that there is no reasonable method to leave the animal while assistance is sought, notify law enforcement, and remain near the vehicle. Additionally, the Good Samaritan must take adequate steps to shield the animal from glass when extracting. In sum, there are no negatives towards passing HB 3756. It only serves to save precious animal lives.

Robert Houghtby
ADL
Pflugerville, TX

This is a common sense bill. I would even like to see added criminal penalties for those causing the situation to arise, i.e. the people who locked that vehical