



# Ohio Legislative Service Commission

## Bill Analysis

Amanda George

### H.B. 94

131st General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

**Reps.** Barnes, Duffey, Lepore-Hagan, Ruhl

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## BILL SUMMARY

- Prohibits a person from negligently allowing an animal to be tethered outdoors under specified circumstances.
- Establishes criminal penalties for violation of the tethering prohibition.

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## CONTENT AND OPERATION

The bill prohibits a person from negligently allowing an animal to be tethered outdoors in any of the following circumstances:

(1) For a total of more than six hours in a 24-hour period and for not more than two consecutive hours without at least an hour between tetherings;

(2) Between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.;

(3) If a heat or cold advisory or a severe weather warning has been issued by the National Weather Service for the area in which the animal is kept or harbored;

(4) If any of the following applies to the tether:

--It is less than 20 feet in length;

--It allows the animal to touch a fence or cross the property line of the owner's, keeper's, or harborer's property;

--It is attached by means of a pinch-type, prong-type, or choke-type collar, or the collar to which it is attached is unsafe or is not properly fitted;

--It may cause injury to, or entanglement of, the animal; or

--It is made of a material that is unsuitable for the animal's size and weight or that causes any unnecessary discomfort to the animal.

(5) If the animal is not provided with a sanitary environment that is free of an accumulation of feces or other waste and insect or rodent infestation and of foul odor; or

(6) If no owner or occupant of the premises where the animal is kept or harbored is present.<sup>1</sup>

For purposes of the bill, a tether is a rope, chain, cord, dog run or pulley, or similar restraint for holding an animal in place that allows a radius in which the animal can move about.<sup>2</sup>

Violation of the bill's tethering prohibition is a minor misdemeanor on the first offense, a fourth degree misdemeanor on the second offense, and a first degree misdemeanor on the third or any subsequent offense. However, if an animal becomes sick or injured as a result of a violation, violation is a first degree misdemeanor.<sup>3</sup>

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## HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	03-02-15

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<sup>1</sup> R.C. 959.133(A).

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 959.133(B).

<sup>3</sup> R.C. 959.99(I).

