



# ANDRÉ JACQUE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 2<sup>nd</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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TO: Members of the Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice  
FROM: Representative André Jacque  
DATE: November 7, 2013  
RE: Assembly Bill 223

Chairman Kleefisch and Colleagues:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today as the author of Assembly Bill 223. As you know, this bill is a redraft of 2011 Senate Bill 88 and was introduced at the request of the Green Bay Police Department to address the increasing problem for law enforcement personnel of encountering dangerous dogs on public and private property during the course of their work.

Assembly Bill 223 as drafted prohibits felons from owning vicious dogs or residing in homes where these dogs are kept. It incorporates amendments adopted in previous sessions including changes that remove DATCP from any determination of viciousness (this is left to local humane or law enforcement officers), provide that determinations of viciousness may be appealed, confirms that a determination may be made regardless of whether an event occurs on or off the property of the owner or custodian, and provide that criminal penalties do not apply until 5 days after receipt of a determination of viciousness or during an appeal of the determination.

While most dogs are loyal friends that offer companionship and even assistance, there is a growing trend where canines are being used for unscrupulous activity like dog fighting and guarding illegal activity. This legislation does not focus on the breed of dog, but rather their behavior or mistreating to potentially cause harm. My awareness of this issue dates back to my service with the City of Green Bay, including considerable discussion with Officer Sharon Hensen, the humane officer at the Green Bay Police Department. She outlined concerns and incidents to me that indicate felon ownership of dogs for purposes other than those commonly associated with pet ownership is increasingly putting law enforcement and public servants in harm's way, and that certain prohibitions that would base determinations of viciousness on behavioral issues but not the breed of a dog are appropriate and necessary.

Thank you again for your time and for your consideration of Assembly Bill 223.



GREEN BAY POLICE DEPARTMENT  
ADAM DISTRICT

We, the men and women of the Green Bay Police Department, are dedicated to providing service through a partnership with the community that builds trust, reduces crime, creates a safe environment and enhances the quality of life in our neighborhoods.



Chief Thomas Molitor

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to encourage support of 2013 Assembly Bill 223, regulating the possession of dogs by certain felony offenders. In our roles as a police officers and supervisors for the Green Bay Police Department, we have come across a number of examples of criminals utilizing dangerous animals to further their criminal enterprises. There are several different types of this behavior, including the use of dangerous dogs to intimidate victims, attack people, or guard contraband such as illegal narcotics. In addition, many of these parties engage in dogfighting as a means of recreation or to create gambling revenue.

Law enforcement faces a variety of challenges in investigating crimes, particularly in cases involving violent felony offenders. Felons are already denied the right to possess firearms, and I believe this should be extended to include the use of dangerous dogs as weapons or for protection of contraband. We have had a number of cases in Green Bay where officers who are executing drug related search warrants have been confronted with, and attacked by vicious dogs upon making entry to a home. Further, we have had officers injured by vicious dogs when they are confronted with violent offenders and are attempting to make an arrest or investigate these types of crimes.

We, the undersigned, believe a law limiting the possession of vicious dogs by felony offenders makes perfect sense, is not over-reaching given their current firearms limitations, and has tremendous potential to make law enforcement officers, humane officers, and the general public safe. We therefore support this legislation, and ask that you implement it as soon as possible.

Thank you,

*Thomas Molitor*

*Kevin Warych*  
Kevin Warych

*LT Jeff Bros*  
LT Jeff Bros

*Jeremy Muraski*  
Capt. Jeremy Muraski

*Bill Bangle*  
Capt. Bill Bangle

*RE ELL*  
LT B. Allen

*Charles R...*

*Joe Hoyer*  
SPECIALIST II

*R Belanger*

*Capt. Wm Hab...*

*James J. Runde*  
Capt. J. M. Runde

*Lt. ...*  
Lt. ...

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*H. K. ...*

*...*

*Capt. ...*

Daniel James  
Michael Parks  
Paul Simon

Capt B. Horem  
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Susan T. Bickett  
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