

2009 SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES

SCR 4005

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 4005


Senate Natural Resources Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: January 22, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 7511

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Senator Lyson opened the hearing on Senate Resolution 4005, relating to the promotion of responsible dog ownership and encouraging the training and testing of dogs. All committee members were present.

Senator JoNeil Bakke, District 43, introduced the resolution (see attached testimony #1).

Cheryl Purdy testified in favor of the resolution (see attachment #2).

Senator Triplett what good do you expect this resolution to do and can you describe what the American Kennel Club does when they receive resolution like this?

Cheryl Purdy- I am actually not a member of the Kennel Club. I think this is just a baby step. North Dakota doesn't really have any laws for animal abuse or protection and this is kind of our baby step towards that goal.

Senator Lyson I have to correct you, there are some pretty strict laws on abuse of an animal. I was recently at a long care facility visiting and as we sat there a big collie dog came up and laid his head on her lap. You could just about feel her responding to the kindness of this dog.

Senator Freborg what does it cost to have for a dog to go to obedience training?

Cheryl Purdy the local kennel club has a six week course for \$60 and Pet Smart does a course for around \$80. It differs with the level of training you do.

Senator Freborg did it make a difference in your dogs? Were you happy with the result?

Cheryl Purdy It really did. You have to make an effort to spend more time with your dog. They are happier being trained as well as our family is.

Senator Lyson closed the hearing on Resolution 4005.

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 4005

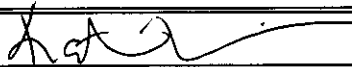
Senate Natural Resources Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: January 23, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 7626

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Senator Lyson opened the discussion on resolution 4005. One member was absent.

Senator Lyson let me give you some examples of the emails I have been receiving regarding this resolution. They say things like "what are you doing", "I have dogs and they are great dogs, friendly and well behave; now you are trying to tell me to have them trained?" That might be ok to do in Fargo or Grand Forks but not in smaller towns. I have had a dog all my life. I have never had anyone train one of my dogs and I have never had a dog bite or chase anyone either. I feel almost insulted when I have someone telling me I should do this.

Senator Triplett my concern is the woman who testified, Cheryl Purdy, who referred to this as a baby step. I always worry about people who tell us this is a first step. It implies to me that they have a long term plan. Then next session or down the road they will be back in and remind us that we passed this and then there will be a bill requiring dog owners to put their dogs in doggie school. If this was the end I wouldn't have a problem but when they come in and tell us it is a baby step towards some undefined thing it worries me.

Senator Hogue we have a bill in next week that is a requirement for the North Dakota Department of Human Services. It states that when one of their employees goes into a home

for suspected child neglect it will also require them to report any suspected abuse of dogs. It is apparent to me that there is more of an agenda coming through this session.

Senator Pomeroy moves a do not pass.

Senator Freborg seconds the motion.

Roll call was taken, 6 yeas, 1 no, 0 absent, **motion passed.**

The resolution was held opened to allow Senator Erbele to vote.

Date: _____

Roll Call Vote #: 4005

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. "Click here to type Bill/Resolution No."

Senate Natural Resources Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended

Motion Made By Sen. Pomeroy Seconded By Sen. Freborg

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Stanley W. Lyson, Chairman	/		Senator Jim Pomeroy	/	
Senator David Hogue, Vice Chairman	/		Senator Mac Schneider		/
Senator Robert S. Erbele	/		Senator Constance Triplett	/	
Senator Layton W. Freborg	/				

Total (Yes) 6 No 1

Absent _____

Floor Assignment Sen. Lyson

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
January 26, 2009 4:43 p.m.

Module No: SR-15-0970
Carrier: Lyson
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SCR 4005: Natural Resources Committee (Sen. Lyson, Chairman) recommends DO NOT PASS (6 YEAS, 1 NAY, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SCR 4005 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2009 TESTIMONY

SCR 4005

SCR4005– Supporting the promotion of responsible dog ownership and encouraging the training and testing of dogs

Chairman Lyson and members of the Natural Resource committee, for the record my name is Senator JoNell Bakke and I represent district 43. I bring before you today SCR4005. This is a resolution that brought to me by one of my constituents who is a professional dog groomer and shows her own dog professionally.

This resolution is one that the American Kennel Club has sponsored in over 30 states and it promotes responsible dog ownership and encourages the owner of the animals to train and test the dogs. I think the resolution is pretty straight forward and self explanatory.

Thank you for your attend to this matter and I would stand for any questions at this time.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Cheryl Purdy. I am here today in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 4005.

As a long-time dog owner and recent pet therapy provider, I would like to encourage you to support this resolution. Responsible pet ownership does not only include providing shelter and food for a pet, but training and exercise, discipline and love (in that order).

I have learned with my own "hand-me-down" dogs that my family and my dogs are much happier when they understand that I am the "pack leader". A year and a half ago, my husband and I adopted a pound puppy who was on his way to becoming a dog like "Marley". After a couple sessions of obedience training, he has settled into the family quite nicely. I hope someday he will become a certified therapy dog.

At the encouragement of my pet groomer, my other dog Chancey has taken obedience training, passed the canine good citizenship test and has been nationally certified as a pet therapy dog. We regularly visit patients at a local hospital.

There are many resources available in North Dakota for owners to train their pets. Here in the Bismarck/Mandan area, there are classes available through local kennels, the Bismarck Kennel Club, PetSmart and other private individuals.

In conclusion, we all know that dogs live to please people, so we, as responsible owners, should help them do just that with training, discipline and love. Thank you for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.