

By: Senator(s) Browning

To: County Affairs; Local and Private

SENATE BILL NO. 2152

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF UNION COUNTY
 2 TO ADOPT ORDINANCES REGULATING THE RUNNING AT LARGE OF DOGS AND
 3 OTHER DOMESTIC ANIMALS THAT CREATE A NUISANCE OR POSE A THREAT TO
 4 THE HEALTH, SAFETY OR WELFARE OF PERSONS OR OTHER ANIMALS IN THE
 5 COUNTY; TO PRESCRIBE CERTAIN PROVISIONS THAT MUST BE INCLUDED AND
 6 CERTAIN PROVISIONS THAT MAY BE INCLUDED WITHIN ANY SUCH
 7 ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE THAT NEITHER THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF
 8 UNION COUNTY, UNION COUNTY, AN EMPLOYEE OF UNION COUNTY NOR ANY
 9 PERSON WITH WHOM THE COUNTY CONTRACTS SHALL BE LIABLE FOR THE
 10 INJURY OR DEATH OF ANY DOG OR ANIMAL IF REASONABLE CARE IS
 11 EXERCISED IN CARRYING OUT THE POWERS AUTHORIZED AND DUTIES
 12 REQUIRED UNDER THIS ACT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

14 **SECTION 1.** (1) The Board of Supervisors of Union County, in
 15 its discretion, by ordinance duly adopted and entered upon its
 16 minutes, may regulate the running at large of dogs and other
 17 domestic animals that create a nuisance or pose a threat to the
 18 health, safety or welfare of persons or other animals in the
 19 county.

20 (2) If the board of supervisors adopts an ordinance under
 21 subsection (1) of this section, the ordinance:

22 (a) May authorize the county to employ some person or
 23 persons or to contract with some person, persons or entity to
 24 capture and/or impound such animals;

25 (b) Shall require such animals as are captured and
 26 impounded to be provided reasonable, necessary and humane care and
 27 treatment;

28 (c) Shall require that the owners of such animals, if
 29 known, be given reasonable notice of the capture and impoundment
 30 of such animals;

31 (d) May authorize the county to charge and collect from
 32 the owner or person to whom an animal is released the actual

33 expenses incurred by the county in capturing, impounding and
34 keeping the animal;

35 (e) May authorize any such animal to be humanely
36 destroyed if after not less than five (5) county work days from
37 the giving of notice under paragraph (c) of this subsection, the
38 animal has not been claimed by the owner or, if not claimed by the
39 owner within such time, has not been released to some other person
40 willing to assume responsibility for its care and custody; and

41 (f) May contain such other provisions as the board of
42 supervisors deems necessary or desirable to effectuate the
43 purposes of this section.

44 (3) Neither the Board of Supervisors of Union County, Union
45 County, an employee of Union County nor any person with whom the
46 county contracts shall be liable for any injury to or death of any
47 dog or animal if reasonable care is exercised in carrying out the
48 powers authorized and duties required under this section.

49 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
50 and after its passage.