

## CHAPTER 77.

[S. B. 15.]

## LIABILITY FOR DOG BITES.

AN ACT providing for the recovery of damages by persons bitten by dogs and creating a liability of the owner of such dog.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:*

Owner of  
dogs liable  
for damages.

SECTION 1. The owner of any dog which shall bite any person while such person is in or on a public place or lawfully in or on a private place including the property of the owner of such dog, shall be liable for such damages as may be suffered by the person bitten, regardless of the former viciousness of such dog or the owner's knowledge of such viciousness.

Construc-  
tion.

SEC. 2. A person is lawfully upon the private property of such owner within the meaning of this act when he is on such property in the performance of any duty imposed upon him by the laws of the State of Washington or of the United States or the ordinances of any municipality in which such property is situated.

Defense.

SEC. 3. Proof of provocation of the attack by the injured person shall be a complete defense to an action for damages.

Passed the Senate March 10, 1941.

Passed the House March 10, 1941.

Approved by the Governor March 18, 1941.