

TREND: State Legislators are Largely Rejecting State Preemption Bills that Prohibit Local Governments from Adopting Pit Bull Laws

12 Year Trend: January 2012 to December 31, 2023

In 2012, a new wave of state preemption bills barring cities and counties from enacting breed-specific laws began being pushed by Utah-based fighting dog advocates, Best Friends Animal Society, and dog breeder interest groups.

Since January 2012, state legislators have rejected 85% (56) of these preemption bills.

Over the last 5 years, Jan. 2019 to Dec. 2023, the rejection rate increased to 92%.

YEAR	STATE	PASS	FAIL
2023	Iowa§		X
	Arkansas		X
	Florida§	1	
	Michigan§		X
	Missouri§		X
	New Jersey		X
	West Virginia		X
Total		1	6
7 Session attempts			

§Indicates two or more separate preemption bills were introduced during the session and each bill failed.

5-Year Total (Jan. 1, 2019 through Dec. 31, 2023)	PASS	FAIL
25 Session attempts	2	23
	8%	92%

12-Year Total (Jan. 1, 2012 through Dec. 31, 2023)	PASS	FAIL
66 Session attempts	10	56
	15%	85%

January 2012 to December 31, 2023

YEAR	STATE	PASS	FAIL
2023	Iowa§		X
	Arkansas		X
	Florida§	1	
	Michigan§		X
	Missouri§		X
	New Jersey		X
	West Virginia		X
	2023 total:	1	6
2022	Florida§		X
	Indiana		X
	Iowa§		X
	Missouri§		X
	New Jersey		X
	Tennessee		X
	West Virginia		X
	2022 total:	0	7
2021	Iowa§		X
	Kentucky		X
	Mississippi		X
	Missouri§		X
	2021 total:	0	4
2020	Kentucky		X
	Michigan		X
	Missouri§†		X
	Washington		X
	2020 total:	0	4
2019	Michigan§		X
	Missouri§		X
	Washington†	X	
	2019 total:	1	2
2018	Colorado		X
	Michigan§		X
	Missouri§		X
	Vermont		X
	Washington§		X
	West Virginia		X
	2018 total:	0	6
2017	Delaware	X	

	Missouri§		X
	Vermont		X
	Washington§		X
	West Virginia		X
	2017 total:	1	4
2016	Arizona◊	X	
	Delaware		X
	Idaho		X
	Georgia§		X
	Kentucky§		X
	Michigan		X
	Missouri		X
	Washington		X
	West Virginia		X
	2016 total:	1	8
2015	Arizona		X
	Georgia§		X
	Kentucky		X
	Michigan		X
	Montana		X
	North Carolina§		X
	Washington		X
	2015 total:	0	7
2014	Georgia		X
	Maryland§		X
	Missouri§		X
	South Dakota	X	
	Utah	X	
	Vermont		X
	Washington		X
	2014 total:	2	5
2013	Connecticut	X	
	Nevada	X	
	New Mexico		X
	Rhode Island	X	
	West Virginia		X
	2013 total:	3	2
2012	Idaho		X
	Massachusetts	X	
	2012 total:	1	1
	Total	10	56

§Indicates two or more separate preemption bills were introduced during the session and each bill failed.

‡Indicates bill was also added to 6 separate omnibus bills that failed to pass the House Chamber.

†The Washington state law is a mandatory “exemption” law. Jurisdictions can enact and enforce breed-specific laws, as long as a city or county maintains a “reasonable process for exempting any dog from breed-based regulations or a breed ban if the dog passes the American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizen test” or its equivalent.

◊Hidden in a preemption bill that banned local puppy mill ordinances, authored by Best Friends Animal Society.