

## LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

**NJSA:** 4:22-16 et al (Dog sled races or exhibitions--permit)

**LAWS OF:** 1985 **CHAPTER:** 433

**BILL NO:** A1509

**Sponsor(s):** Littell, Gallo and Haytaian

**Date Introduced:** February 27, 1984

**Committee: Assembly:** Agriculture and Environment

**Senate:** Energy and Environment

**Amended during passage:** Yes Amendments during passage denoted by asterisks.

**Date of Passage: Assembly:** January 28, 1985

**Senate:** December 12, 1985

**Date of Approval:** January 13, 1986

**Following statements are attached if available:**

**Sponsor statement:** Yes (Below)

**Committee statement: Assembly** Yes

**Senate** Yes

**Fiscal Note:** No

**Veto Message:** No

**Message on Signing:** No

**Following were printed:**

**Reports:** No

**Hearings:** No

**Sponsors' statement:**

This bill would permit the holding of dog sled races or exhibitions of dog sled racing skill by dogs specifically bred and trained for that purpose. The husky dogs involved in these activities would be protected by the various existing state laws enacted for the protection of dumb animals.

See newspaper clipping--attached.

"Good sledding ahead," 1-21-86 Trenton Times.

433 85  
1-13-86

[OFFICIAL COPY REPRINT]

ASSEMBLY, No. 1509

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 27, 1984

By Assemblymen LITTELL, GALLO and HAYTAIAN

AN ACT concerning dog sled racing, amending R. S. \***[4:22-25 and]**\* \*4:22-16,\* supplementing chapter 22 of Title 4 of the Revised Statutes *and repealing R. S. 4:22-25\**.

1 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
2 *of New Jersey:*

1 \***[1. R. S. 4:22-25 is amended to read as follows:**

2 4:22-25. A person who shall use a dog for the purpose of draw-  
3 ing or helping to draw a vehicle for business **[or other purposes]**  
4 shall be liable to a fine of one dollar (\$1.00) and costs for the first  
5 offense and 10 dollars (\$10.00) and costs for each subsequent  
6 offense.

7 The offender together with the dog and the vehicle shall be taken  
8 before the county district court or the municipal court and said  
9 court shall have jurisdiction to impose the fine and render judg-  
10 ment accordingly.]\*

1 \*1. R. S. 4:22-16 is amended to read as follows:

2 4:22-16. Nothing contained in this article shall be construed to  
3 prohibit or interfere with:

4 a. Properly conducted scientific experiments performed under  
5 the authority of the State Department of Health. That department  
6 may authorize the conduct of such experiments or investigations  
7 by agricultural stations and schools maintained by the State or  
8 federal government, or by medical societies, universities, colleges  
9 and philanthropic institutions incorporated or authorized to do  
10 business in this State and having among their corporate purposes  
11 investigation into the causes, nature, prevention and cure of dis-

**EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

**Matter printed in italics thus is new matter.**

**Matter enclosed in asterisks or stars has been adopted as follows:**

**\*—Assembly committee amendments adopted October 18, 1984.**

12 eases in men and animals; and may for cause revoke such au-  
13 thority;

14 b. The killing or disposing of an animal or creature by virtue of  
15 the order of a constituted authority of the State;

16 c. The shooting or taking of game or game fish in such manner  
17 and at such times as is allowed or provided by the laws of this  
18 State;

19 *d. The training or engaging of a dog to accomplish a task or*  
20 *participate in an activity or exhibition designed to develop the*  
21 *physical or mental characteristics of that dog. These activities*  
22 *shall be carried out in accordance with the practices, guidelines or*  
23 *rules established by an organization founded for the purpose of*  
24 *promoting and enhancing working dog activities or exhibitions; in*  
25 *a manner which does not adversely affect the health or safety of*  
26 *the dog; and may include avalanche warning, guide work, obedi-*  
27 *ence work, carting, dispatching, freight racing, packing, sled dog*  
28 *racing, sledding, tracking, and weight pull demonstrations.\**

1 2. (New section) An organization created for the purpose of  
2 promoting the breeding, care, and training of dogs to draw sleds,  
3 *\*carts, or wheel rigs,\** including the *\*[National Dog]\* \*Interna-*  
4 *tional\* Sled \*Dog Racing\* Association and its affiliates in this*  
5 State, or other similar association which has been in existence  
6 for at least five years and which has been classified as a nonprofit  
7 corporation and certified as exempt from the payment of federal  
8 income tax by the Internal Revenue Service of the United States  
9 Department of the Treasury may conduct or sponsor dog sled  
10 races or exhibitions of dog sled racing\*, *carting, weight pull, and*  
11 *freight racing\** skill with dogs specifically bred and trained for  
12 that purpose, in conjunction with the owners thereof. The proper  
13 care, humane treatment, and protection of a dog participating in  
14 a dog sled race *\*[or]\* \*, freight race, weight pull, or carting\** ex-  
15 hibition shall be the responsibility of its owner and all dog sled  
16 races *\*[or]\* \*, freight race, weight pull, or carting\** exhibitions  
17 shall be conducted in a manner not inconsistent with the provisions  
18 of chapter 22 of Title 4 of the Revised Statutes.

1 *\*3. R. S. 4:22-25 is repealed.\**

1 *\*[3.]\* \*4.\* This act shall take effect immediately.*

---

ASSEMBLY AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**ASSEMBLY, No. 1509**

with Assembly committee amendments

---

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

---

DATED: OCTOBER 18, 1984

As amended by the Assembly Agriculture and Environment Committee, Assembly Bill No. 1509 would stipulate the criteria under which certain dog races or exhibitions may take place: to wit, by the International Sled Dog Racing Association, its affiliates or other similar organizations which are nonprofit and have been in existence for five years or more, with animals which have been trained for these purposes, and under conditions that are humane and not inconsistent with the laws against cruelty.

The committee amended the bill to amend R. S. 4:22-16, clarifying that the laws against cruelty to animals would not be construed to prohibit the training or engaging of dogs for these races or exhibitions as long as they were held under humane conditions.

The committee also amended the bill to repeal R. S. 4:22-25 which states, in essence, that using a dog to draw a vehicle for business or other purposes would subject the violator to a \$1.00 fine for the first offense and to a \$10.00 fine for each subsequent offense. R. S. 4:22-26 presently provides a \$250.00 fine for the use of a dog in drawing a vehicle for business purposes and the amendment to 4:22-25 suggested in the bill would have established different penalties for identical violations.

SENATE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**ASSEMBLY, No. 1509**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: FEBRUARY 25, 1985

Assembly Bill No. 1509 would amend the law concerning the prevention of cruelty to animals to allow sled dog races and working dog exhibitions under certain conditions. This bill would allow nonprofit organizations which have existed for at least five years and are dedicated to the breeding and training of working dogs, such as the International Sled Dog Racing Association and its affiliates, to conduct and sponsor exhibitions of dog sled racing, carting, and weight pulling with specially trained dogs. These exhibitions, and the training of dogs to participate in them, must be conducted under conditions that are humane and consistent with State law prohibiting cruelty to animals.