

**Analysis by Zandra Anderson**  
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**HB 458 (Regulating the number of dogs at a residence in certain counties)**

**Leibowitz (County Affairs)**

1. This bill would allow the commissioners' court in counties with a population of 1 million or more to limit the number of dogs someone can keep at their residence if it is located in a residential subdivision.
2. The counties this bill could currently affect include Harris, Tarrant, Dallas and Bexar counties.

**Why We Oppose this Bill:**

1. This law is unnecessary because to be a residential subdivision, state law requires that the majority of the lots must be controlled by deed restrictions making the lots residential. These deed restrictions can limit the number of dogs if the residents want such restrictions.
2. Many people have moved outside the city limits so that they can have more dogs than the city allows. This is exactly the reason why some people have moved.
3. If a person has too many dogs that are not living in adequate conditions, there are already cruelty laws that apply. Similarly, there are nuisance laws that already may apply.
4. Many dog rescues and sanctuaries are in the unincorporated areas of counties, so this could severely curtail dog rescue efforts.
5. Many kennel operations and dog training facilities are outside the city limits and this would adversely affect them.
6. Residents of these residential subdivisions can determine for themselves if they want such a limit and how many dogs will be allowed.