

I support the passing of HB 3318. This bill does nothing more than hold dog trainers to the same standard as horse trainers for the purpose of training classes which would be a limited number of hours and students per day (and only during the day). In general when discussing dog training held in arenas, we're talking about highly trained animals that are well managed and maintained so they do not cause disturbances to neighbors.

I have been an active dog sport competitor for the past 16 years. In that time I have never become aware of any incidents of aggression or nuisance behavior directed towards neighbors or their livestock. The dogs that are attending these classes are in control of their owners at all times. This is advanced level training that includes a significant time and financial commitment from the owners in order to achieve. People that attend these classes have no interest in risking the investment that they have made in their dogs' training by allowing them to be out of control on a property. Additionally relationships with neighbors tend to be very important to facility owners and trainers. In order to protect those relationships we implement rules which are strictly enforced to ensure that everyone is respectful. These rules include things like picking up and properly disposing of animal waste, preventing dogs from barking excessively while on the property, and keeping dogs on leash unless actively working in the class.

Please consider passing HB 3318. This would have a dramatic positive impact on the many dog trainers who are small business owners.