



# NEWS RELEASE

---

## LOUISIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

Thursday, April 10, 2013 • Contact: Glen Duncan (225) 342-9795

---

### **Lawmaker tries again to protect dogs in trucks**

**BATON ROUGE** – Rep. Tom Willmott (R-Kenner) is passionate about keeping highway drivers safe while keeping dogs safe too. One way is to prohibit dogs in the back of pickup trucks unless the dogs are humanely secured. Dogs that jump or fall onto the road can cause drivers to collide or lose control at high speed, resulting in injury or death to both dogs and humans.

Willmott has filed HB 1091 that would require pickup truck drivers on Interstate highways to transport dogs “in a secure, humane manner that prevents the dog or dogs from falling, jumping, or being thrown from the pickup truck bed.”

“This bill allows a lot of latitude as to how owners may secure their dog, as long as it is done in a humane way.” Willmott said, “I just don’t want dogs jumping, falling or being thrown on to the highway, risking their own safety and the safety of drivers who will swerve to avoid hitting the dog.”

Willmott filed similar measure last year. He said an unrestrained dog in the back of a pickup is essentially an unsecured load, which is already prohibited. Willmott said he listened carefully to animal associations, hunters and fellow House members who had witnessed dogs falling onto the highway and has improved his bill, making it more acceptable to everyone.

“The goal is solely to support humane treatment of dogs while preventing high-speed accidents on our interstate highways,” he said.

HB 1091 is scheduled to be debated by the committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works on Monday.

###