

# Legislative Analysis

---



## **REPEAL BAN ON BLAZE ORANGE LEASH/COLLAR FOR DOGS OF NON-HEARING-IMPAIRED**

Phone: (517) 373-8080  
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

**House Bill 4247 as introduced**  
**Sponsor: Rep. Martin Howrylak**  
**Committee: Criminal Justice**  
**Complete to 3-23-15**

Analysis available at  
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

### **SUMMARY:**

House Bill 4247 would repeal Public Act 82 of 1981 (MCL 752.61-752.63). The bill would take effect 90 days after enactment.

Public Act 82 provides that only a deaf or audibly impaired person may use or be in possession of a dog wearing a blaze orange leash and collar in a public place. A violation is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$10.

(Note: According to information provided on its website by DOGS for the DEAF, Inc., "Dogs wear a blaze orange collar, leash, and vest – all with the word 'Hearing Dog' prominently displayed on them.")

Apparently, use of the blaze orange collar and vest is used nationally to easily identify a dog as a service animal for which entrance into or upon public places is protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act. According to a 2014 publication by the Michigan State University College of Law entitled "Table of State Assistance Animal Laws," about 16 states have laws making it a misdemeanor offense to "fraudulently represent that a person has the right to be accompanied by a service animal. This may simply involve the use of a harness, vest, or orange leash that typically identifies as [sic] a dog as a service animal.")

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The bill would have no apparent fiscal impact on state or local units of government.

Legislative Analyst: Susan Stutzky  
Fiscal Analyst: William E. Hamilton

---

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.