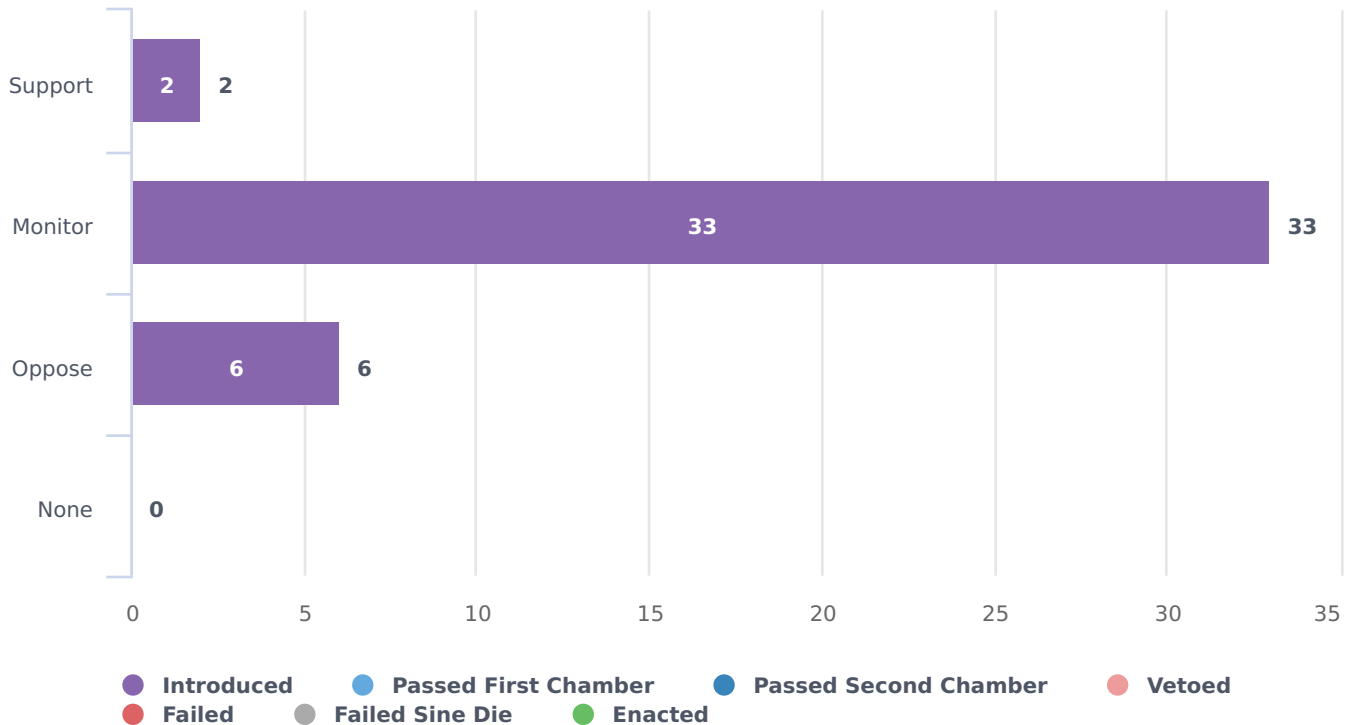


Massachusetts - 2023 Legislative Overview

Last Updated: November 15, 2023

Bills by Last Status and Position



Bill State: MA (41)

| State | Bill Number | Last Action | Status | Position | FN Outlook |
|-------|-------------|---|----------|----------|-------------|
| MA | H 267 | Bill Reported Favorably By Committee And Referred To The Committee On House Ways And Means 2023 10 18 | In House | Monitor | 93.8% 79.1% |

Title
An Act relative to the registration of veterinarians

Description
By Representative Chan of Quincy, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 267) of Tackey Chan relative to the registration of veterinarians. Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

Primary Sponsors
Tackey Chan

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 19, 2023, 7:46 PM
Amends Title XVI (Public Health), Chapter 112 (Registration of Certain Professions & Occupations), Section 55 (Registration of veterinarians; examinations; certificate; fees; renewal of licenses; revocation) of MA General Laws to adjust payment date of veterinary license fees. Provides that each registered veterinarian shall biannually (current statute = annually), before January 1st (current statute = March 1st), pay to the Board a license fee to be determined annually by the Commissioner of Administration.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-16

State
MA

Bill Number
H 310

Last Action
Hearing Scheduled For 06 26 2023
From 01 00 Pm 04 00 Pm In B 2 2023 06
15

Status
In House

Position
Monitor

FN Outlook
96.0% 85.4%

Title

An Act relative to pet grooming

Description

By Representative González of Springfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 310) of Carlos González and Bud L. Williams relative to the regulation of pet groomers. Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

Primary Sponsors

Carlos Gonzalez

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 20, 2023, 6:46 PM

Amends Part 1 (Administration of the Government), Title II (Executive & Administrative Officers of the Commonwealth), Chapter 13 (Division & Boards of Registration) of MA General Laws to: 1) Establish a Board of Registration for Pet Groomers; and 2) Promulgate rules and regulations for pet groomer standards of care. Provides that there shall be a Board of Registration of Pet Groomers to be appointed by the Governor consisting of 5 members, citizens of the Commonwealth, 4 of whom shall have been actively engaged in the business of pet grooming as a full-time occupation for not less than 5 years prior to their appointment and 1 of whom shall be a representative of the public. Provides that no person shall practice as a pet groomer unless registered with the board. Provides that a person who is not less than 18 years of age, of good moral character and who meets the applicable qualifications and requirements for registration as a pet groomer, as established and adopted by the Board, shall, upon application and payment of a fee, as determined annually by the Secretary of Administration be registered as a pet groomer. Provides that a pet groomer shall register biennially and shall pay a biennial registration fee determined under this section; provided, however, that the Board may issue an initial registration for not more than 2 years. Provides that the Board shall promulgate rules and regulations related to the safety, sanitation and operation of a pet grooming business and shall consider the Professional Pet Groomers & Stylists Alliance standards of care, safety and sanitation when promulgating such rules and regulations. Provides for recordkeeping requirements, penalties, and license suspension and revocation provisions. For purposes of this section: "Pet groomer" means an individual who clips, trims, styles, bathes, brushes, dries or performs other services, as determined by the board, on a pet for compensation. "Pet grooming business" means a person, corporation, firm, proprietorship or other entity, operating as or operated by a registered pet groomer, where a pet may be clipped, trimmed, styled, bathed, brushed, dried or have other services performed on, as determined by the Board, and provides these services in a commercial building, mobile unit or property owned or operated by the business or client.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-16

State
MA

Bill Number
H 314

Last Action
Hearing Scheduled For 09 26 2023
From 01 00 Pm 05 00 Pm In B 1 2023 09
19

Status
In House

Position
Monitor

FN Outlook
96.4% | 91.1%

Title

An Act to provide consumer protections at dog day care businesses

Description

By Representative Gregoire of Marlborough, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 314) of Danielle W. Gregoire and others relative to licensing of dog day care businesses. Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

Primary Sponsors

Danielle Gregoire

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 20, 2023, 6:43 PM

Amends Part 1 (Administration of the Government), Title XIX (Agriculture & Conservation), Chapter 129 (Livestock and Disease Control) of MA General Laws by adding a new Section 39H to provide for dog day care business licensing, inspection and standards of care. Provides that every person engaged in operating a dog day care business shall obtain a license therefor from the Director, the fee for which shall be determined annually by the Commissioner of Administration. Provides that the Director shall make rules and regulations governing the method and time of inspections of said businesses, issuance, suspension and revocation of such licenses, penalties for violations of this section and the conduct of the businesses so licensed relative to sanitation requirements, operational safety standards, and risk management procedures. Provides that rules and regulations shall include, but not be limited to, minimum commercial general liability insurance requirements; fire and emergency procedures; approved education, testing, accreditation or certification for dog day care animal care providers; and animal health and behavior recordkeeping, including an obligation to report to the director serious injuries to animals or people. Provides that the Director shall obtain input from current Massachusetts dog day care business owners, employees, animal owners, licensed veterinarians and experts on industry best practices prior to drafting regulations. purposes of this section: "Dog day care business" means the business of furnishing supervision, control and management of dogs socializing in groups with responsibility for food, water, exercise and the provision of care to maintain the safety and well-being of dogs at the establishment that are not the property of the business owner. "Director" means Director of Animal Health.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-16

State

MA

Bill Number

H 747

Last Action

Hearing Scheduled For 11 08 2023
From 01 00 Pm 05 00 Pm In A 2 2023 10
27

Status

In House

Position

Oppose

FN Outlook

96.7% 77.1%

Title

An Act relative to the sale of dogs and cats in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Description

By Representative Ayers of Quincy, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 747) of Bruce J. Ayers relative to the sale of dogs, cats and rabbits in pet shops. Environment and Natural Resources.

Primary Sponsors

Bruce Ayers

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Oct 28, 2023, 12:13 PM

Amends Title XIX (Agriculture & Conservation), Chapter 129 (Livestock Disease Control), Section 39A (Pet Shops; Licensing Operation; Animal Health Inspection) of MA General Laws by adding a new Section 39 1/2 to restrict the sale of dogs, cats and rabbits in pet shops. Provides that a pet shop operator shall not sell a live dog, cat or rabbit in a pet shop unless the dog, cat or rabbit was obtained from a publicly owned animal pound, public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter or rescue group that is in a cooperative agreement with at least 1 private or public shelter. Provides that each pet shop shall maintain records sufficient to document the source of each dog, cat or rabbit that the pet shop sells or provides space for, for at least 1 year. Provides that each pet shop shall post, in a conspicuous location on the cage or enclosure of each animal, a sign listing the name of the publicly owned animal pound, public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group from which each dog, cat or rabbit was obtained. Violators of this section shall be subject to a civil penalty of \$500. Each animal offered for sale in violation of this section shall constitute a separate violation.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-16

State
MA

Bill Number
H 784

Last Action
**Hearing Scheduled For 06 14 2023
From 01 00 Pm 05 00 Pm In A 1 2023 06
07**

Status
In House

Position
Monitor

FN Outlook
97.2% 91.1%

Title

An Act relative to plastic bag reduction

Description

By Representative Domb of Amherst, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 784) of Mindy Domb and others relative to plastic bag reduction. Environment and Natural Resources.

Primary Sponsors

Mindy Domb

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 20, 2023, 6:50 PM

Amends Part 1 (Administration of the Government), Title II (Executive & Administrative Officers of the Commonwealth) of MA General Laws by adding a new Chapter 21P (Plastic Bag Reduction) to restrict the use of single-use plastic bags by retail establishments. States that a retail establishment shall not provide a customer with a single-use plastic bag or provide any other bag, unless specifically allowed under this chapter that is not: (i) a recycled paper bag; or (ii) a reusable bag for the customer to carry away an item purchased from or serviced by the retail establishment. Among several exemptions provided: 1) Single-use plastic bags protecting an item from damage or contamination or to protect a second item when both are carried together. 2) Any package containing several bags, including, but not limited to, food bags, sandwich bags, yard waste bags, garbage bags or municipal pay-as-you-throw program trash bags. Provides that a retail establishment violating this chapter shall be subject to a warning for the 1st violation, a civil penalty of \$50 for the 2nd violation and a civil penalty of \$100 for a 3rd or subsequent violation. For purposes of this section: "Single-use plastic bag" means a plastic film-type bag with or without handles provided by a retail establishment to customers at its business location to carry items purchased from or serviced by the retail establishment and that is not a recycled paper bag or reusable bag. "Retail establishment" means a store or premises in which a person is engaged in the retail business of selling or providing merchandise, goods, groceries, prepared take-out food and beverages for consumption off-premises or the servicing of an item, directly to customers at such store or premises, including, but not limited to, grocery stores, department stores, pharmacies, convenience stores, restaurants, coffee shops and seasonal and temporary businesses, including farmers markets and public markets; provided, however, that a "retail establishment" shall also include a food truck or other motor vehicle, mobile canteen, trailer, market pushcart or moveable roadside stand used by a person from which to engage in such business directly with customers and business establishments without a storefront, including, but not limited to, a business delivering prepared foods or other food items, web-based or catalog business or delivery services used by a retail establishment; provided further, that a "retail establishment" shall include a nonprofit organization, charity or religious institution that has a retail establishment and holds itself out to the public as engaging in retail activities that are characteristic of similar type retail businesses, whether or not for profit when engaging in such activity.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-16

Title

An Act relative to dogs brought into the Commonwealth by animal rescue organizations

Description

By Representative Galvin of Canton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 801) of William C. Galvin, Joseph W. McGonagle, Jr. and Kate Lipper-Garabedian relative to dogs brought into the Commonwealth by animal rescue organizations. Environment and Natural Resources.

Primary Sponsors

Bill Galvin

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 20, 2023, 6:13 PM

Amends Title XIX (Agriculture & Conservation), Chapter 129 (Livestock Disease Control) of MA General Laws by adding a new section to provide restrictions on dogs brought into the Commonwealth by animal rescue organizations. Provides that a dog brought into the commonwealth by an animal rescue organization from another state for the purpose of permanent physical placement shall quarantine for not less than 48 hours upon entry to the commonwealth. Provides that the quarantine may occur in the: (1) residence of the permanent or temporary placement of the dog or (2) in a quarantine facility licensed by the director. Provides that after quarantine, a veterinarian shall examine the dog and issue a certificate of health if the dog does not display signs of contagious or infectious illness. Provides that this section shall not apply to the voluntary, permanent surrender of a dog to an animal rescue organization in the commonwealth by an individual owner if the owner resides in Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island or Vermont and the owner provides transportation of the dog into the commonwealth. For purposes of this section: "Animal rescue organization", an entity that is not otherwise required to be licensed pursuant to sections 39, 39A or 45, or section 152A of chapter 94, and whose primary activity is the placement of abandoned, displaced, unwanted, neglected or abused domestic animals, including dogs; provided, that an animal rescue organization shall not obtain dogs from a breeder or broker for payment or compensation; and provided, further that an animal rescue organization shall be exempt from taxation under Section 501 (c)(3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code or equivalent nonprofit designation under said Code.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-16

Title

An Act banning the retail sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits in new pet shops

Description

By Representatives Higgins of Leominster and Ferguson of Holden, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 826) of Natalie M. Higgins, Kimberly N. Ferguson and others for legislation to further regulate the retail sale of certain domestic animals in new pet shops. Environment and Natural Resources.

Primary Sponsors

Natalie Higgins, Kim Ferguson

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 19, 2023, 1:59 PM

Amends Title XIX (Agriculture & Conservation), Chapter 129 (Livestock Disease Control), Section 39A (Pet shops; licensing operation; animal health) of MA General Laws to restrict the sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits in pet shops. Provides that no person engaged in the business of operating a pet shop for which a license must be obtained and are regulated under 330 CMR 12.00 shall sell or offer for sale a dog or cat, unless: (1) The person engaged in the business of operating the pet shop received a Class A license from the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources on or before the effective date of this act; and (2) Such person only sells or offers for sale dogs, cats, or rabbits from the location licensed to sell or offer for sale dogs, cats, or rabbits. Provides that nothing in this section shall affect the authority of any town, city, or other locality to regulate or prohibit the sale of dogs, cats, or rabbits.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-16

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| State MA | Bill Number H 835 | Last Action Hearing Scheduled For 11 08 2023 From 01 00 Pm 05 00 Pm In A 2 2023 10 27 | Status In House | Position Monitor | FN Outlook 92.5% 82.3% |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|

Title

An Act protecting dogs at boarding kennels and daycare facilities

Description

By Representative Kane of Shrewsbury, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 835) of Hannah Kane and others for legislation to regulate boarding kennels and daycare facilities for dogs. Environment and Natural Resources.

Primary Sponsors

Hannah Kane

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 29, 2023, 5:11 PM

Amends Title XX (Public Safety & Good Order), Chapter 140 (Licenses) of MA General Laws by adding a new Section 174G to provide for the regulation of boarding kennels and daycare facilities for dogs. Provides that the Department shall promulgate rules and regulations for boarding kennels and daycare facilities for dogs, including home-based kennels and daycare facilities, including, but not limited to, staff to dog ratios group sizes and supervision, minimum housing and care requirements, indoor and outdoor physical facility requirements, dog handling, insurance, and penalties for violation thereof.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-16

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| State MA | Bill Number H 890 | Last Action Hearing Scheduled For 04 26 2023 From 01 00 Pm 05 00 Pm In A 2 2023 04 19 | Status In House | Position Monitor | FN Outlook 94.3% 84.2% |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|

Title

An Act responding to the threat of invasive species

Description

By Representative Rogers of Cambridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 890) of David M. Rogers and others relative to the threat of invasive species. Environment and Natural Resources.

Primary Sponsors

Dave Rogers

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 20, 2023, 6:38 PM

Amends Title II (Executive & Administrative Officers of the Commonwealth), Chapter 10 (Department of the State Treasurer) of MA General Laws by adding new sections to create the Massachusetts Invasive Species Council and an Invasive Species Advisory Committee. Establishes the Massachusetts Invasive Species Council which shall provide policy level direction, coordination, and planning among state departments, federal agencies, and international and local initiatives for the control and eradication of invasive species infestations throughout the state and prevent the introduction of potentially invasive species. Provides that the council shall build upon the strength of existing invasive species programs, identify and address state level organizational and resource needs with respect to invasive species, and integrate the state's invasive species response into an efficient, unified plan. Establishes the Invasive Species Advisory Committee which shall provide information, advice, and guidance to the council, including but not limited to providing assistance with the creation of an assessment for non-native species and recommendations for best management practices. Provides that the committee shall develop data relative to invasive species and assist in the implementation of and any revision to the strategic management plan. For purposes of this section: "Invasive species" means a species that is non-native to the ecosystem under consideration, and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. "Native species" means a species that, other than as a result of an introduction, historically occurred or currently occurs in a particular ecosystem. "Non-native species", a species that is introduced or not naturally occurring, based on the species biology, phylogeny, distribution, and current knowledge about the species, within Massachusetts.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-16

State
MA

Bill Number
H 1367

Last Action
Hearing Scheduled For 09 27 2023
From 01 00 Pm 05 00 Pm In B 1 2023 09
11

Status
In House

Position
Monitor

FN Outlook
96.0% 82.5%

Title

An Act to maintain stable housing for families with pets in an economic crisis and beyond

Description

By Representatives Rogers of Cambridge and Montañó of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1367) of David M. Rogers, Samantha Montañó and others relative to the rights of certain families with pets. Housing.

Primary Sponsors

Dave Rogers, Sam Montano

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 17, 2023, 6:14 PM

An Act to amend the MA General Laws to maintain stable housing for families with pets in an economic crisis and beyond. Provides that no landlord shall initiate action to evict any person from a residential dwelling unit who has a pet without written permission based solely on the presence of the pet until 1 year after the March 10, 2020 declaration of a state of emergency caused by the 2019 novel coronavirus pandemic ends, unless presence of pets is causing harm to the safety of other residents. Provides that during the March 10, 2020 declaration of a state of emergency caused by the 2019 novel coronavirus pandemic, no hotel shall unreasonably refuse to allow pets, unless the pet has caused a demonstrated noise or safety threat. Amends Chapter 175 (Insurance) to provide tht an insurance company offering homeowners insurance coverage or renters insurance coverage that issues a policy or contract insuring against liability for injury to a person or injury to or destruction of property arising out of the ownership or lease of residential property shall not refuse to issue, renew, cancel, or charge or impose an increased premium or rate of such a policy or contract based in whole or in part upon the harboring of a specific breed of dog upon the property. Amends Chapters 23B (Dept. of Housing & Community Development) and 121B (Housing & Urban Renewal) to provide that no regulation, rule or policy shall prohibit the keeping of dogs based on the dog's breed, size, weight or appearance.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-16

Title

An Act relative to a commission to study the intentional misrepresentation of a service animal

Description

By Representative Ferguson of Holden, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1480) of Kimberly N. Ferguson and others for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to the intentional misrepresentation of a service animal. The Judiciary.

Primary Sponsors

Kim Ferguson

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 17, 2023, 5:32 PM

An Act to establish a commission to study the intentional misrepresentation of a service animal. Provides that the commission shall consist of 15 members: 2 of whom shall be the House and Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary or their designees, who shall serve as Co-chairs; 1 of whom shall be a member of the House of Representative to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; 1 of whom shall be a member of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the House Minority Leader; 1 of whom shall be a member of the Senate to be appointed by the Senate President; 1 of whom shall be a member of the Senate to be appointed by the Senate Minority Leader; 1 of whom shall be the Attorney General or the Attorney General's designee; 1 of whom shall be the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Office of Disability or the Executive Director's designee; 1 of whom shall be the Chair of the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination or the Chair's designee; 1 of whom shall be appointed by the President of the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association; 1 of whom shall be appointed by the Commissioner of the Municipal Police Training Committee; 1 of whom shall be appointed by the Executive Director of the Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee; and 3 members who shall be appointed by the Governor, 1 of whom shall be a representative of a professional organization specializing in the advocacy, education, and/or training of service animals, 1 of whom shall be a representative of a professional organization specializing in the advocacy, education, and/or training of other animals, including emotional support, companion, or comfort animals, and 1 of whom shall be a member of an association advocating for the interests of restaurant owners and/or retailers in the Commonwealth. Provides that the Commission shall file its findings with the General Assembly by December 31, 2024.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-16

Title

An Act relative to the misrepresentation of a service animal

Description

By Representative Ferguson of Holden, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1481) of Kimberly N. Ferguson and others relative to the misrepresentation of a service animal. The Judiciary.

Primary Sponsors

Kim Ferguson

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 17, 2023, 5:39 PM

Amends Title I (Crimes & Punishments), Chapter 272 (Crimes Against Chastity, Morality, Decency & Good Order) of MA General Laws by adding a new Section 98B to provide for the offense of misrepresentation of a service animal. Provides that it is a violation of this section for an individual to take a dog into a place of public accommodation where pets are not permitted, and the dog is wearing a cape, vest, special leash, or other form of identification that states or implies that the dog is a service dog entitled to be present, even if the individual makes no affirmative statements. A violation of this section is a civil infraction, punishable by 30 hours of community service for an organization that serves individuals with disabilities, or for another entity or organization at the discretion of the court, to be completed in not more than 6 months and/or pay a fine no more than \$500.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-16

Title

An Act relative to establishing an animal abuse registry

Description

By Representative Howitt of Seekonk, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1557) of Steven S. Howitt and others for legislation to establish an animal abuse registry. The Judiciary.

Primary Sponsors

Steven Howitt

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 17, 2023, 5:07 PM

Amends Title I (Crimes & Punishments), Chapter 272 (Crimes Against Chastity, Morality, Decency & Good Order) of MA General Laws by adding a new Section 107 to establish an animal abuse registry. Provides that the Department of Criminal Justice Information Services shall establish and maintain a central computerized registry of all persons convicted of an animal abuse crime who are required to register, to be known as the Massachusetts Animal Abuse Registry. Provides that the Department of Criminal Justice Information Services shall keep confidential and shall not publish the information contained in the registry, except that the information contained in the registry shall be made available for inspection by any animal shelter, pet store, or animal breeder in Massachusetts. Provides that all animal shelters, pet stores, and animal breeders in Massachusetts shall determine whether the name and address of any person seeking to purchase or adopt an animal appears on the registry. Provides that no animal shelter, pet store, or animal breeder shall knowingly offer, sell, deliver, give or provide an animal to any person registered on the registry. Any animal shelter, pet store, or animal breeder who violates the provisions of this act shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$1,000 or imprisonment for a period of not more than 1 year for a first offense, provided that each subsequent offense shall be punishable by a fine of not less than \$5,000 and imprisonment in a jail or house of correction for not more than 5 years.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-16

Title

An Act to protect animals from convicted animal abusers

Description

By Representatives Nguyen of Andover and Howard of Lowell, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1703) of Tram T. Nguyen, Vanna Howard and others for legislation to protect animals from convicted animal abusers. The Judiciary.

Primary Sponsors

Tram Nguyen, Vanna Howard

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 17, 2023, 5:03 PM

Amends Title I (Crimes & Punishments), Chapter 272 (Crimes Against Chastity, Morality, Decency & Good Order), Section 77 (Cruelty to Animals) of MA General Statutes to prohibit pet ownership by certain animal abuse offenders and to provide for certain penalties. Provides that a person convicted of a violation of MA animal cruelty statutes shall not harbor, own, possess, exercise control over, reside with, adopt, or foster an animal or engage in an occupation, whether paid or unpaid, or participate in a volunteer position at any establishment where animals are present for any length of time that the court deems reasonable for the protection of all animals; provided, however, that the length of time shall not be less than 5 years after the person's release from custody for a first offense or less than 15 years after the person's release from custody for a second or subsequent offense. Provides that any person found in violation of an order incorporating the provisions of this section may, in addition to any other punishment provided by law, be fined in an amount not exceeding \$1,000 for each animal held in unlawful ownership or possession. Provides that any animal involved in a violation described in this section shall be forfeited to the State.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-16

State
MA

Bill Number
H 1718

Last Action
**Hearing Scheduled For 04 04 2023
From 01 00 Pm 05 00 Pm In A 2 2023 03
28**

Status
In House

Position
Monitor

FN Outlook
97.5% 94.2%

Title

An Act relative to the humane protection of animals

Description

By Representatives Philips of Sharon and Giannino of Revere, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1718) of Edward R. Philips, Jessica Ann Giannino and others for legislation relative to the humane protection of animals and establishing a task force to complete a systematic review of the laws pertaining to animal cruelty and protection. The Judiciary.

Primary Sponsors

Ted Philips, Jessica Giannino

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 17, 2023, 6:34 PM

Amends Titles I (Crime & Punishment), XIX (Agriculture & Conservation) and XX (Public Safety and Good Order), Chapters 129 (Livestock & Disease Control), 140 (Licenses) and 272 (Crimes Against Chastity, Morality, Decency & Good Order) of MA General Laws to: 1) Establish an animal cruelty laws task force; and 2) Prohibit access to animals by convicted animal abusers. Provides that there shall be a task force established to complete a systematic review of the laws pertaining to animal cruelty and protection including any legislative recommendation regarding the creation of a misdemeanor animal cruelty statute. Provides that the task force shall consist of: 1) The Attorney General or a designee; 2) The president of the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association or a designee; 3) The colonel of the State Police or a designee; 4) the Commissioner of Agricultural Resources or a designee; 5) A representative from the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; 6) A representative from the Animal Rescue League of Boston; 7) A representative from the Massachusetts Bar Association; and 8) 2 persons appointed by the Governor, 1 of whom shall be an animal control officer or representative of an association organized in the Commonwealth for animal control officers and 1 of whom shall be a veterinarian or member of a veterinary medical association organized in the Commonwealth. Provides that the task force shall submit a report of its findings and legislative recommendations to the clerks of the Senate and the House of Representatives and the chairs of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary not later than 12 months after the effective date of this act. Provides that a person convicted of certain animal cruelty violations shall not harbor, own, possess, exercise control over, reside with, adopt, or foster an animal or engage in an occupation, whether paid or unpaid, or participate in a volunteer position at any establishment where animals are present for any length of time that the court deems reasonable for the protection of all animals; provided, however, that the length of time shall not be less than 5 years after the person's date of conviction or release from custody, whichever is later, for a first offense or less than 15 years after the person's date of conviction or release from custody, whichever is later, for a second or subsequent offense.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-16

State
MA

Bill Number
H 2019

Last Action
Hearing Scheduled For 09 26 2023
From 01 00 Pm 05 00 Pm In B 1 2023 09
19

Status
In House

Position
Monitor

FN Outlook
95.7% 88.6%

Title

An Act to increase kennel safety, aka Ollie's Law

Description

By Representative Ashe of Longmeadow, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2019) of Brian M. Ashe and others relative to kennel safety. Municipalities and Regional Government.

Primary Sponsors

Brian Ashe

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 17, 2023, 6:07 PM

"Ollie's Law" amends Part 1 (Administration of the Government), Titles XIX (Agriculture & Conservation) and XX (Public Safety and Good Order), Chapters 129 (Livestock & Disease Control) and 140 (Licenses) of MA General Laws to provide for commercial dog boarding and kennel licensing and standards. Provides that every person operating a kennel shall obtain a license. Provides that the department shall promulgate rules and regulations for commercial boarding kennels, training kennels and personal breeder kennels, including those located at a private residence, including, but not limited to staff to animal ratios, fire and emergency planning, group sizes and supervision, minimum housing and care requirements, indoor and outdoor physical facility requirements, dog handling, veterinary care, insurance, and other general standards of care. Provides that a person who violates this section shall be assessed a fine of \$500 for a first offense and a fine of not more than \$1,000 for a second or subsequent offense. Added Definition: "Personal breeder kennel" means a pack or collection of 3 or more intact female dogs on a single premise, kept for the purpose of breeding and selling the offspring to breeders or individuals by private sale, provided that this does not include a personal kennel where animals are only bred for private personal use and not offered for sale or exchange, nor a commercial breeder kennel where animals are sold or exchanged to wholesalers, brokers or pet shops in return for consideration. Amended Definitions: "Kennel" means a pack or collection of dogs on a single premise, including a commercial boarding or training kennel, commercial breeder kennel, domestic charitable corporation kennel, PERSONAL BREEDER KENNEL, personal kennel or veterinary kennel. "Personal kennel" means a pack or collection of 5 OR MORE DOGS, 6 MONTHS OLD OR OLDER (currently more than 4 dogs, 3 months old or older), owned or kept under single ownership, for private personal use; provided, however, that breeding of personally owned dogs may take place for the purpose of improving, exhibiting or showing the breed or for use in legal sporting activity or for other personal reasons; provided further, that selling, trading, bartering or distributing such breeding from a personal kennel shall be to other breeders or individuals by private sale only and not to wholesalers, brokers or pet shops; provided further, that a personal kennel shall not sell, trade, barter or distribute a dog not bred from its personally-owned dog; and provided further, that dogs temporarily housed at a personal kennel, in conjunction with an animal shelter or rescue registered with the department, may be sold, traded, bartered or distributed if the transfer is not for profit.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-16

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|-------|-------------|---|----------|----------|-------------|
| State | Bill Number | Last Action | Status | Position | FN Outlook |
| MA | H 2022 | Hearing Scheduled For 09 26 2023 From 01 00 Pm 05 00 Pm In B 1 2023 09 19 | In House | Monitor | 94.0% 82.7% |

Title
An Act relative to further increasing the fines for cruelty to animals, and establishing a fund dedicated to improvements for local animal shelters

Description
By Representative Ayers of Quincy, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2022) of Bruce J. Ayers and Michelle M. DuBois relative to increasing the fines for cruelty to animals and establishing a fund dedicated to improvements for local animal shelters. Municipalities and Regional Government.

Primary Sponsors
Bruce Ayers

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 17, 2023, 5:11 PM
Amends Title I (Crimes & Punishments), Chapter 272 (Crimes Against Chastity, Morality, Decency & Good Order) of MA General Law to increase the fines for cruelty to animals and to establish a fund dedicated to improvements for local animal shelters. Increases the fine for a 1st offense of cruelty to animals from \$5,000 to \$5,500 and for a subsequent violation from \$10,000 to \$11,000. Provides that no more than \$500 from a 1st offense and \$1,000 from a subsequent offense shall be designated towards a special account in the municipality where the violation occurred. Provides that the monies shall be used solely for funding improvements to the municipality's animal shelter.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-16

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|-------|-------------|---|----------|----------|-------------|
| State | Bill Number | Last Action | Status | Position | FN Outlook |
| MA | H 2027 | Hearing Scheduled For 09 26 2023 From 01 00 Pm 05 00 Pm In B 1 2023 09 19 | In House | Monitor | 97.4% 76.9% |

Title
An Act relative to puppy mills

Description
By Representative Ayers of Quincy, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2027) of Bruce J. Ayers relative to commercial breeder dog kennels. Municipalities and Regional Government.

Primary Sponsors
Bruce Ayers

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 19, 2023, 2:59 PM
Amends Title XX (Public Safety & Good Order), Chapter 140 (Licenses) of MA General Laws to add a new Section 137E providing for licensing of commercial breeder kennels. Provides that a person maintaining a commercial breeder kennel shall obtain a breeder license to be issued by the city or town in which such commercial breeder kennel is located. Provides that each such license shall be renewed annually upon application of the commercial breeder kennel to such city or town. Provides that each dog kept in its kennel shall wear an identification tag, inscribed with the number of the breeder license, the name of the city or town issuing the breeder license and the year of issue. Provides for kennel inspection requirements. Any commercial breeder kennel that sells or exchanges a dog after a license has been suspended or revoked shall be fined not less than \$50 nor more than \$100. Provides that not later than December 31, 2025, the Commissioner of Agricultural Resources shall prescribe the standard of care to be provided to dogs by any owner or keeper of a commercial breeder kennel pursuant to section 137E of chapter 140 of the General Laws. Such standard of care shall require, at a minimum, the commercial breeder kennel to provide appropriate living space, shelter, nutrition and sanitary conditions to each dog housed at the commercial breeder kennel, whether or not the dog is to be sold. For purposes of this section: "Commercial breeder kennel" means an establishment, other than a personal kennel, engaged in the business of breeding animals for sale or exchange to wholesalers, brokers or pet shops in return for consideration.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-16

State
MA

Bill Number
H 2102

Last Action
Hearing Scheduled For 09 26 2023
From 01 00 Pm 05 00 Pm In B 1 2023 09
19

Status
In House

Position
Monitor

FN Outlook
97.8% 96.6%

Title

An Act enhancing the issuance of citations for cruel conditions for animals

Description

By Representative Puppolo of Springfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2102) of Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr., and others relative to enhancing the issuance of citations for cruel conditions for animals. Municipalities and Regional Government.

Primary Sponsors

Angelo Puppolo

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 23, 2023, 2:47 PM

Amends Title XX (Public Safety & Good Order), Chapter 140 (Licenses), Section 174E (Chaining or tethering dog; confinement; restrictions; penalty) to define and provide penalties for the offense of subjecting domestic animals to "cruel conditions". New definitions for this section: "Cruel conditions" includes, but is not limited to, the following: 1) Exposure to excessive animal waste, garbage, non-potable water, excessive noxious odors that create a health threat to people or animals, dangerous objects or other animals that could injure or kill an animal upon contact, other circumstances that could cause harm to the health or safety of the animal based on species, age or physical condition; or failure to provide access to appropriate food and water based on the animal's species, age and physical condition; 2) Lack of protection when wind or environmental or weather conditions pose an adverse risk to the health or safety of the animal based on the animal's species, age, or physical condition. "Domestic animal" means all animals, regardless of their purpose or use, including livestock, that are kept as a domestic animal. Provides that a person who violates this section shall: (i) for a first offense, be issued a written warning or punished by a fine of not more than \$50; (ii) for a second offense, be punished by a fine of not more than \$200; and (iii) for a third or subsequent offense, be punished by a fine of not more than \$500; provided, however, that for a third or subsequent offense, the animal may be subject to impoundment in a local shelter or appropriate facility at the owner's, keeper's or guardian's expense pending compliance with this section, or loss of ownership of the animal.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-16

Title

An Act providing tax credits to promote the adoption of a dog or cat from a shelter

Description

By Representative Muradian of Grafton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2899) of David K. Muradian, Jr., for legislation to promote adoption of certain of dogs or cats from animal shelters by establishing tax credits for certain costs associated with said adoptions and by the creation of a motor vehicle registration plate. Revenue.

Primary Sponsors

Dave Muradian

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 20, 2023, 6:19 PM

Amends Chapter 29 (State Finance) of MA General Laws by creating a new Section 2WWWW to provide tax credits to promote the adoption of a dog or cat from a shelter. Establishes the Adopt a Shelter Pet Fund, to be administered by the Department of Revenue, which shall reimburse the Commonwealth of the cost of tax credits issued pursuant to this section. Provides that a taxpayer shall be allowed a credit for the adoption of a qualified pet from a qualifying adoption entity; provided however, that such taxpayer provides the following documentation to the commissioner: 1) For a dog, adoption papers and proof of registration of the adopted dog; or 2) For a cat, adoption papers from a qualifying adoption entity. For purposes of this section: "Qualifying adoption entity" means a public animal control facility, office, agency or shelter, humane society shelter or rescue group. "Qualified pet and tax credit" means either of the following animals adopted from a qualified animal rescue organization that is not used by the taxpayer in a trade or business or for the production of income \$400 for a dog over 7 years of age, or a disabled dog or cat ,regardless of age, as determined by the qualified animal rescue organization; or \$200 for a dog 1 to 6 years old, or a cat over 7 years old, or \$100 for a cat 1 to 6 years old, maximum of 2 qualified pets per household, as determined by the qualified animal rescue organization. Provides that the total tax credit shall not exceed \$500 for 3 consecutive tax years, per household.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-16

Title

An Act relative to a sales tax exemption for animal medication prescribed by veterinarians

Description

By Representative Muratore of Plymouth, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3664) of Mathew J. Muratore and others relative to providing for a sales tax exemption for animal medication prescribed by veterinarians. Revenue.

Primary Sponsors

Matt Muratore

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Apr 2, 2023, 12:24 PM

Amend Title IX (Taxation), Chapter 64H (Taxation on Retail Sales of Certain Tangible Property), Section 6 (Exemptions) of MA General Laws by adding a new section relative to a sales tax exemption for animal medication prescribed by veterinarians. Provides an exemption for the sale of prescription drugs intended for animal use, durable medical equipment and prosthetics intended for animal use and veterinary supplies intended for animal use. For purposes of this section: "Prescription drugs intended for animal use" shall mean a drug dispensed only by or upon the lawful written order of a licensed veterinarian. "Veterinary supplies" shall mean tangible personal property therapeutic in nature, not normally used absent illness or injury and not intended for repeated usage.

Introduction Date: 2023-03-30

Title
An Act promoting safe dog ownership

Description
By Representatives Hawkins of Attleboro and Xiarhos of Barnstable, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of James K. Hawkins and Steven George Xiarhos relative to liability for damage caused by dogs. The Judiciary.

Primary Sponsors
Jim Hawkins, Steven Xiarhos

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jun 21, 2023, 12:42 PM
Amends Title XX (Public Safety & Good Order), Chapter 140 (Licenses), Section 155 (Liability for damage caused by dog; minors; presumption and burden of proof) of MA General Laws by further providing for liability and penalties for damage caused by dogs. Provides that if any dog owner negligently permits their dog to cause damage to the property of any person, including their pet, companion animal, or service animal, or to cause injury to any person, then the owner or keeper thereof; or if the owner or keeper be a minor, the parent or guardian of such owner or keeper thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$2,500.

Introduction Date: 2023-05-30

Title
An Act relative to the preservation of existing pet cemeteries

Description
By Representative Elliott of Lowell, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Rodney M. Elliott and James Arciero that the Division of Animal Health be authorized to regulate the preservation of existing pet cemeteries. Agriculture.

Primary Sponsors
Rodney Elliott

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Oct 4, 2023, 12:26 PM
Amends Title XIX (Agriculture & Conservation), Chapter 129 (Livestock Disease Control) of MA General Laws by adding a new Section 49 to provide deed restriction and recordkeeping requirements for the operation of a pet cemetery. Provides that the owner of any real property used or to be used for a pet cemetery shall file in the registry of deeds in which the real property is located, a dedication restricting the real property to be used only for such purposes as are usual and customary for the operation of a pet cemetery. Provides that the owner or operator of every pet cemetery shall keep adequate records of all purchasers of space for pet remains within the grounds of such pet cemetery. For purposes of this section: "Pet" means any domestic animal that has been adapted or tamed to live in intimate association with people but, not limited to, dogs, cats, rodents, fish, birds, snakes, turtles, lizards, frogs and rabbits. "Pet cemetery" means any plot of ground used or intended to be used, for the permanent burial or disposition of the remains of a pet in a grave, a mausoleum, a columbarium, a vault or other receptacle provided by any person for a fee, whether or not for profit, to veterinarians or members of the general public.

Introduction Date: 2023-10-04

State
MA

Bill Number
S 190

Last Action
**Bill Reported Favorably By Committee
And Referred To The Committee On
Senate Ways And Means 2023 10 19**

Status
In Senate

Position
Monitor

FN Outlook
55.1% 92.7%

Title

An Act prohibiting inhumane feline declawing

Description

By Mr. Montigny, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 190) of Mark C. Montigny, Jack Patrick Lewis, Brian M. Ashe, Patrick M. O'Connor and others for legislation to prohibit inhumane feline declawing. Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

Primary Sponsors

Mark Montigny

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 13, 2023, 4:00 PM

Amends Title XX (Public Safety & Good Order), Chapter 140 (Licenses) of MA General Laws by adding a new Section 174F to prohibit inhumane feline declawing. Provides that no person shall perform, or cause to be performed, the declawing, onychectomy or tendonectomy of a cat, with certain exceptions. Provides that veterinarian who performs a declawing, onychectomy or tendonectomy procedure on a cat shall keep a record of the procedure for a period of 4 years after the last contact with the animal. Provides that whoever violates this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000 for a first offense, by a fine of not more than \$1,500 for a second offense and by a fine of not more than \$2,500 for a third or subsequent offense. Provides that, in addition to said penalty, a court may order that any person who violates this section shall successfully complete a course of instruction relative to the humane treatment of animals or be barred from owning or keeping a cat or sharing a residence with another who owns or keeps a cat for a period of time as determined by said court. For purposes of this section: "Declawing" and "onychectomy" mean any surgical procedure in which a portion of the cat's paw is amputated in order to remove the animal's claws.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-16

Title

An Act relative to plastic bag reduction

Description

By Mr. Eldridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 477) of James B. Eldridge, Hannah Kane, Lindsay N. Sabadosa, Vanna Howard and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to plastic bag reduction. Environment and Natural Resources.

Primary Sponsors

Jamie Eldridge

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 13, 2023, 3:14 PM

Amends Part 1 (Administration of the Government), Title II (Executive & Administrative Officers of the Commonwealth) of MA General Laws by adding a new Chapter 21P (Plastic Bag Reduction) to restrict the use of single-use plastic bags by retail establishments. States that a retail establishment shall not provide a customer with a single-use plastic bag or provide any other bag, unless specifically allowed under this chapter that is not: (i) a recycled paper bag; or (ii) a reusable bag for the customer to carry away an item purchased from or serviced by the retail establishment. Among several exemptions provided: 1) Single-use plastic bags protecting an item from damage or contamination or to protect a second item when both are carried together. 2) Any package containing several bags, including, but not limited to, food bags, sandwich bags, yard waste bags, garbage bags or municipal pay-as-you-throw program trash bags. Provides that a retail establishment violating this chapter shall be subject to a warning for the 1st violation, a civil penalty of \$50 for the 2nd violation and a civil penalty of \$100 for a 3rd or subsequent violation. For purposes of this section: "Single-use plastic bag" means a plastic film-type bag with or without handles provided by a retail establishment to customers at its business location to carry items purchased from or serviced by the retail establishment and that is not a recycled paper bag or reusable bag. "Retail establishment" means a store or premises in which a person is engaged in the retail business of selling or providing merchandise, goods, groceries, prepared take-out food and beverages for consumption off-premises or the servicing of an item, directly to customers at such store or premises, including, but not limited to, grocery stores, department stores, pharmacies, convenience stores, restaurants, coffee shops and seasonal and temporary businesses, including farmers markets and public markets; provided, however, that a "retail establishment" shall also include a food truck or other motor vehicle, mobile canteen, trailer, market pushcart or moveable roadside stand used by a person from which to engage in such business directly with customers and business establishments without a storefront, including, but not limited to, a business delivering prepared foods or other food items, web-based or catalog business or delivery services used by a retail establishment; provided further, that a "retail establishment" shall include a nonprofit organization, charity or religious institution that has a retail establishment and holds itself out to the public as engaging in retail activities that are characteristic of similar type retail businesses, whether or not for profit when engaging in such activity.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-16

State
MA

Bill Number
S 491

Last Action
**Hearing Scheduled For 05 15 2023
From 11 00 Am 01 00 Pm In Gardner
Auditorium 2023 05 05**

Status
In Senate

Position
Monitor

FN Outlook
11.8% 82.3%

Title

An Act relative to creating an animal advisory board to the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture

Description

By Ms. Gobi, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 491) of Anne M. Gobi and Kimberly N. Ferguson for legislation relative to creating an animal advisory board to the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture. Environment and Natural Resources.

Primary Sponsors

Anne Gobi

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 13, 2023, 3:07 PM

An Act to create an Animal Advisory Board to the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture. Provides that members of the Advisory Board shall include the Shelter and Rescue Coordinator at MDAR or their designee, who shall serve as Chair. Provides that the Governor shall appoint 8 additional persons: 1 of whom shall be a member of a small foster-based rescue; 1 of whom shall be a member of a larger animal welfare organization; 1 of whom shall be a member of a national animal welfare organization that provides interstate transport; 1 of whom shall be a veterinarian who is certified by the Association of Shelter Veterinarians; 1 of whom shall be a veterinarian experienced with companion animal work; 1 of whom shall be a veterinarian with livestock and/or farm experience; 1 of whom shall be a lawyer with animal welfare experience, and 1 of whom shall be an Animal Control Officer operating in the Commonwealth with at least 5 years of experience. Provides that the Advisory Board shall meet quarterly and at the call of the Commissioner or upon the written request of any two members. Provides that the Board is charged with advising the Commissioner on issues relating, but not limited to, shelters, animal control officers, animal inspectors, training and best practices. Provides that the Animal advisory board, in conjunction with the Department, shall make an annual report to the Joint Committee on the Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture as to their activities under this section.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-16

State
MA

Bill Number
S 508

Last Action
**Hearing Scheduled For 04 26 2023
From 01 00 Pm 05 00 Pm In A 2 2023 04
19**

Status
In Senate

Position
Monitor

FN Outlook
16.8% 87.6%

Title

An Act responding to the threat of invasive species

Description

By Ms. Jehlen, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 508) of Patricia D. Jehlen, Michael J. Barrett, Michael O. Moore, Thomas M. Stanley and other members of the General Court for legislation to respond to the threat of invasive species. Environment and Natural Resources.

Primary Sponsors

Pat Jehlen

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 22, 2023, 7:10 PM

Amends Title II (Executive & Administrative Officers of the Commonwealth), Chapter 10 (Department of the State Treasurer) of MA General Laws by adding new sections to create the Massachusetts Invasive Species Council and an Invasive Species Advisory Committee. Establishes the Massachusetts Invasive Species Council which shall provide policy level direction, coordination, and planning among state departments, federal agencies, and international and local initiatives for the control and eradication of invasive species infestations throughout the state and prevent the introduction of potentially invasive species. Provides that the council shall build upon the strength of existing invasive species programs, identify and address state level organizational and resource needs with respect to invasive species, and integrate the state's invasive species response into an efficient, unified plan. Establishes the Invasive Species Advisory Committee which shall provide information, advice, and guidance to the council, including but not limited to providing assistance with the creation of an assessment for non-native species and recommendations for best management practices. Provides that the committee shall develop data relative to invasive species and assist in the implementation of and any revision to the strategic management plan. For purposes of this section: "Invasive species" means a species that is non-native to the ecosystem under consideration, and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. "Native species" means a species that, other than as a result of an introduction, historically occurred or currently occurs in a particular ecosystem. "Non-native species", a species that is introduced or not naturally occurring, based on the species biology, phylogeny, distribution, and current knowledge about the species, within Massachusetts.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-16

State
MA

Bill Number
S 525

Last Action
Hearing Scheduled For 06 14 2023
From 01 00 Pm 05 00 Pm In A 1 2023 06
07

Status
In Senate

Position
Monitor

FN Outlook
8.0% 84.7%

Title

An Act to reduce single-use plastics from the environment

Description

By Mr. Lewis, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 525) of Jason M. Lewis, Michael J. Barrett and Joanne M. Comerford for legislation to reduce single-use plastics from the environment. Environment and Natural Resources.

Primary Sponsors

Jason Lewis

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 23, 2023, 3:21 PM

The "Prevent Plastic Grocery Bags from Entering the Environment Act" amends Part 1 (Administration of the Government), Title II (Executive & Administrative Officers of the Commonwealth) of MA General Laws by adding a new Chapter 21P (Plastic Bag Reduction) to prohibit the use of single-use plastic carryout bags by retail establishments. Provides that 18 months after the enactment of this law, a Retail establishment may only make available for purchase at the point of sale a reusable grocery bag, or recycled paper bag. Provides that the Department of Environmental Protection shall promulgate regulations with regard to the enforcement of this chapter. For purposes of this section: "Single-use carryout bag" means a bag made of plastic, paper, or other material that is provided by a Retail establishment to a customer at the point of sale and that is not a recycled paper bag or a reusable grocery bag. A single-use carryout bag does not include the following: (i) a paper bag provided by a pharmacy to a customer purchasing a prescription medication; (ii) a non-handled bag used to protect items from damaging or contaminating other purchased items placed in a recycled paper bag, a reusable grocery bag; (iii) a bag provided to contain an unwrapped food item; or (iv) a non-handled bag that is designed to be placed over articles of clothing on a hanger. "Retail establishment" means a store or premises in which a person is engaged in the retail business of selling or providing merchandise, goods, groceries, prepared take-out food and beverages for consumption off-premises or the servicing of an item, directly to customers at such store or premises, including, but not limited to, grocery stores, department stores, pharmacies, convenience stores, restaurants, coffee shops and seasonal and temporary businesses, including farmers markets and public markets; provided, however, that a "retail establishment" shall also include a food truck or other motor vehicle, mobile canteen, trailer, market pushcart or moveable roadside stand used by a person from which to engage in such business directly with customers and business establishments without a storefront, including, but not limited to, a business delivering prepared foods or other food items, web-based or catalog business or delivery services used by a retail establishment; provided further, that a "retail establishment" shall include a non profit organization, charity or religious institution that has a retail establishment and holds itself out to the public as engaging in retail activities that are characteristic of similar type retail businesses, whether or not for profit when engaging in such activity.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-16

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|--------------------|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| State MA | Bill Number S 548 | Last Action Hearing Scheduled For 11 08 2023 From 01 00 Pm 05 00 Pm In A 2 2023 10 27 | Status In Senate | Position Monitor | FN Outlook 23.6% 87.9% |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|

Title

An Act protecting dogs at boarding kennels and daycare facilities

Description

By Mr. O'Connor, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 548) of Patrick M. O'Connor, James K. Hawkins and Jack Patrick Lewis for legislation relative to rules and regulations governing boarding kennels and daycare facilities for dogs. Environment and Natural Resources.

Primary Sponsors

Pat O'Connor

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 17, 2023, 4:57 PM

Amends Title XX (Public Safety & Good Order), Chapter 140 (Licenses) of MA General Laws by adding a new Section 174G to provide for the regulation of boarding kennels and daycare facilities for dogs. Provides that the Department shall promulgate rules and regulations for boarding kennels and daycare facilities for dogs, including home-based kennels and daycare facilities, including, but not limited to dog ratios, group sizes and supervision, minimum housing and care requirements, indoor and outdoor physical facility requirements, dog handling, insurance, and penalties for violation thereof.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-16

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|--------------------|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| State MA | Bill Number S 549 | Last Action Hearing Scheduled For 11 08 2023 From 01 00 Pm 05 00 Pm In A 2 2023 10 27 | Status In Senate | Position Oppose | FN Outlook 14.8% 85.2% |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|

Title

An Act banning the retail sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits in new pet shops

Description

By Mr. O'Connor, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 549) of Patrick M. O'Connor, Adam Scanlon, Jack Patrick Lewis, Michael O. Moore and other members of the General Court for legislation to ban the retail sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits in new pet shops. Environment and Natural Resources.

Primary Sponsors

Pat O'Connor

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 13, 2023, 2:57 PM

Amends Title XIX (Agriculture & Conservation), Chapter 129 (Livestock Disease Control), Section 39A (Pet shops; licensing operation; animal health) of MA General Laws to restrict the sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits in new pet shops. Provides that no person engaged in the business of operating a pet shop for which a license must be obtained and are regulated under 330 CMR 12.00 shall sell or offer for sale a dog or cat, unless: (1) The person engaged in the business of operating the pet shop received a Class A license from the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources on or before the effective date of this act; and (2) Such person only sells or offers for sale dogs, cats, or rabbits from the location licensed to sell or offer for sale dogs, cats, or rabbits. Provides that nothing in this section shall affect the authority of any town, city, or other locality to regulate or prohibit the sale of dogs, cats, or rabbits.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-16

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|--------------------|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| State MA | Bill Number S 550 | Last Action Hearing Scheduled For 11 08 2023 From 01 00 Pm 05 00 Pm In A 2 2023 10 27 | Status In Senate | Position Oppose | FN Outlook 57.7% 83.3% |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|

Title

An Act banning the retail sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits in pet shops

Description

By Mr. O'Connor, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 550) of Patrick M. O'Connor, Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr., Steven S. Howitt, John F. Keenan and other members of the General Court for legislation banning the retail sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits in pet shops. Environment and Natural Resources.

Primary Sponsors

Pat O'Connor

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 13, 2023, 2:59 PM

Amends Title XIX (Agriculture & Conservation), Chapter 129 (Livestock Disease Control), Section 39A (Pet shops; licensing operation; animal health) of MA General Laws to prohibit the sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits in pet shops. Provides that no person engaged in the business of operating a pet shop for which a license must be obtained and are regulated under 330 CMR 12.00 shall sell or offer for sale a dog, cat, or rabbit. Provides that this section shall not be construed to prohibit a pet shop from offering space to an animal rescue or shelter organization to showcase dogs, cats, or rabbits for adoption so long as the pet shop does not have an ownership interest in the animals offered for adoption. Provides that nothing in this section shall affect the authority of any town, city, or other locality to regulate or prohibit the sale of dogs, cats, or rabbits.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-16

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|--------------------|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| State MA | Bill Number S 580 | Last Action Hearing Scheduled For 11 08 2023 From 01 00 Pm 05 00 Pm In A 2 2023 10 27 | Status In Senate | Position Monitor | FN Outlook 11.2% 92.5% |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|

Title

An Act further protecting research animals

Description

By Mr. Tarr, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 580) of Bruce E. Tarr and Michelle M. DuBois for legislation to further protect research animals. Environment and Natural Resources.

Primary Sponsors

Bruce Tarr

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 13, 2023, 7:24 PM

Amends Title XX (Public Safety & Good Order), Chapter 140 (Licenses), Section 174D (Research Institutions; License to use Dogs or Cats; Rules & Regulations) of MA General Laws to provide for the adoption of cats or dogs used by animal research facilities. Provides that a research facility or product testing facility shall, after the completion of any testing or research involving a dog or cat that does not require euthanasia of the animal upon the termination of the study as defined and approved by the research or testing protocol, assess the health of the animal and determine whether the animal is suitable for adoption. Provides for exceptions. Provides that nothing in this act shall require a research institution or product testing facility to offer a dog or cat for adoption to an animal shelter, rescue organization or through private placement if the dog or cat is a newborn dog or cat in need of maternal care and not appropriate for adoption. For purposes of this section: "Research Facility" means a higher education research facility that utilizes dogs or cats for educational, medical or scientific research that receives public funds or a facility that provides research through a contractual agreement with a higher education research facility.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-16

Title

An Act to maintain stable housing for families with pets in an economic crisis and beyond

Description

By Ms. Gobi, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 876) of Anne M. Gobi, Jack Patrick Lewis, Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr., James K. Hawkins and other members of the General Court for legislation to maintain stable housing for families with pets in an economic crisis and beyond. Housing.

Primary Sponsors

Anne Gobi

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 23, 2023, 3:48 PM

An Act to amend the MA General Laws to maintain stable housing for families with pets in an economic crisis and beyond. Provides that no landlord shall initiate action to evict any person from a residential dwelling unit who has a pet without written permission based solely on the presence of the pet until 1 year after the March 10, 2020 declaration of a state of emergency caused by the 2019 novel coronavirus pandemic ends, unless presence of pets is causing harm to the safety of other residents. Provides that during the March 10, 2020 declaration of a state of emergency caused by the 2019 novel coronavirus pandemic, no hotel shall unreasonably refuse to allow pets, unless the pet has caused a demonstrated noise or safety threat. Amends Chapter 175 (Insurance) to provide tht an insurance company offering homeowners insurance coverage or renters insurance coverage that issues a policy or contract insuring against liability for injury to a person or injury to or destruction of property arising out of the ownership or lease of residential property shall not refuse to issue, renew, cancel, or charge or impose an increased premium or rate of such a policy or contract based in whole or in part upon the harboring of a specific breed of dog upon the property. Amends Chapters 23B (Dept. of Housing & Community Development) and 121B (Housing & Urban Renewal) to provide that no regulation, rule or policy shall prohibit the keeping of dogs based on the dog's breed, size, weight or appearance.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-16

Title

An Act relative to improving enforcement for tethering violations

Description

By Mr. Montigny, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1056) of Mark C. Montigny and Jack Patrick Lewis for legislation to improve enforcement for tethering violations. The Judiciary.

Primary Sponsors

Mark Montigny

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 13, 2023, 3:50 PM

Amends Title XX (Public Safety & Good Order), Chapter 140 (Licenses), Section 174E (Chaining or Tethering Dog; Confinement; Restrictions; Penalty) of MA General Laws to improve enforcement for dog tethering violations. Provides that no person owning or keeping a dog shall chain, confine, or tether a dog outside and unattended: 1) For longer than 5 hours or 2) Outside from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. (Current Statute = No person owning or keeping a dog shall chain or tether a dog for longer than 5 hours in a 24-hour period and outside from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.) Adds provision that the entrance to an outside dog shelter shall allow the dog's entry and exit, and in adverse weather have a flap or other mechanism sturdy enough to block entry of weather elements. For purposes of this section: "Outside and unattended" shall mean any dog who is exposed to the elements for a duration of longer than 15 minutes and not in visual range and physical presence of the owner. This expressly includes, but is not limited to, a dog in a securely fenced-in yard, a dog in a kennel, or a dog tethered. For purposes of this section a dog shall be considered "outside" regardless of access to an outdoor doghouse or similar structure.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-16

Title

An Act enhancing the issuance of citations for cruel conditions for animals

Description

By Mr. Montigny, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1059) of Mark C. Montigny, Jack Patrick Lewis, John F. Keenan, Michael O. Moore and other members of the General Court for legislation to enhance the issuance of citations for cruel conditions for animals. The Judiciary.

Primary Sponsors

Mark Montigny

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 13, 2023, 3:55 PM

Amends Title XX (Public Safety & Good Order), Chapter 140 (Licenses), Section 174E (Chaining or tethering dog; confinement; restrictions; penalty) to define and provide penalties for the offense of subjecting domestic animals to "cruel conditions". New definitions for this section: "Cruel conditions" includes, but is not limited to, the following: 1) Exposure to excessive animal waste, garbage, non-potable water, excessive noxious odors that create a health threat to people or animals, dangerous objects or other animals that could injure or kill an animal upon contact, other circumstances that could cause harm to the health or safety of the animal based on species, age or physical condition; or failure to provide access to appropriate food and water based on the animal's species, age and physical condition; 2) Lack of protection when wind or environmental or weather conditions pose an adverse risk to the health or safety of the animal based on the animal's species, age, or physical condition. "Domestic animal" means all animals, regardless of their purpose or use, including livestock, that are kept as a domestic animal. Provides that a person who violates this section shall: (i) for a first offense, be issued a written warning or punished by a fine of not more than \$50; (ii) for a second offense, be punished by a fine of not more than \$200; and (iii) for a third or subsequent offense, be punished by a fine of not more than \$500; provided, however, that for a third or subsequent offense, the animal may be subject to impoundment in a local shelter or appropriate facility at the owner's, keeper's or guardian's expense pending compliance with this section, or loss of ownership of the animal.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-16

Title

An Act relative to the ownership of pets by convicted animal abusers

Description

By Mr. Moore, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1076) of Michael O. Moore, Jack Patrick Lewis, Patrick M. O'Connor, Brian M. Ashe and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to the ownership of pets by convicted animal abusers. The Judiciary.

Primary Sponsors

Mike Moore

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 13, 2023, 3:46 PM

Amends Title 1 (Crimes and Punishments), Chapter 272 (Crimes Against Chastity, Morality, Decency and Good Order), Section 77 (Cruelty to animals; prohibition from work involving contact with animals) of MA General Laws to restrict pet ownership by certain animal cruelty offenders. Provides that a person convicted of certain animal cruelty offenses shall not harbor, own, possess, exercise control over, adopt, or foster an animal for any length of time that the Court deems reasonable for the protection of all animals; provided, however, that the length of time shall not be less than 5 years after the person's release from custody. Provides that any person found in violation of an order incorporating the provisions of this paragraph may, in addition to any other punishment provided by law, be fined in an amount not exceeding \$1,000 for each animal held in unlawful ownership or possession and shall forfeit custody of any animal involved in a violation of this paragraph to the custody of an entity incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth for the prevention of cruelty to animals or for the care and protection of homeless or suffering animals.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-16

State
MA

Bill Number
S 1126

Last Action
Hearing Scheduled For 04 04 2023
From 01 00 Pm 05 00 Pm In A 2 2023 03
28

Status
In Senate

Position
Oppose

FN Outlook
56.1% 88.0%

Title

An Act promoting pet safety aka Crawford's Law

Description

By Mr. Tarr, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1126) of Bruce E. Tarr and Vanna Howard for legislation to promote pet safety aka Crawford's Law. The Judiciary.

Primary Sponsors

Bruce Tarr

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 13, 2023, 3:23 PM

"Crawford's Law" amends Part IV (Crimes, Punishments & Proceedings in Criminal Cases), Title I (Crimes & Punishments), Chapter 272 (Crimes Against Chastity, Morality, Decency & Good Order) of MA General Laws to award non-economic damages for the wrongful death of a companion animal. Provides that a person who by willful, wanton, reckless, or negligent act causes the unnecessary or unjustified death of a cat or dog shall be liable in damages for the fair monetary value of the deceased animal to the owner of the animal, including, but not limited to, damages for the loss of comfort, protection, companionship, other special damages, services of the deceased animal to its owner; reasonable afterlife expenses of the deceased animal; court costs and attorney's fees; and other reasonable damages resulting from the willful, wanton, reckless, or negligent act. Provides that non-economic damages shall have a cap value of \$30,000.00. Provides that damages under this section for unnecessary or unjustified death sustained by an animal shall be recovered in an action of tort by the aggrieved, commenced within 3 years from the date of death or from the date when the aggrieved knew, or in the exercise of reasonable diligence, should have known, of the factual basis for a claim of relief. For purposes of this section: "Animal-companion" shall mean a dog, cat or any warm-blooded, domesticated non-human animal dependent on one or more human persons for food, shelter, veterinary care, or companionship. Animal-companion shall not include animals that are the subjects of legal, humane farming practices, legal, humane biomedical research practices or activities regulated by the federal Animal Welfare Act.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-16

Title

An Act relative to the humane protection of animals

Description

By Mr. Velis, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1142) of John C. Velis, Patrick M. O'Connor, Jack Patrick Lewis, Steven George Xiarhos and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to the humane protection of animals. The Judiciary.

Primary Sponsors

John Velis

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 25, 2023, 2:32 PM

Provides that there shall be a task force established to complete a systematic review of the laws pertaining to animal cruelty and protection including any legislative recommendation regarding the creation of a misdemeanor animal cruelty statute. Provides that the task force shall consist of: 1) The Attorney General or a designee; 2) The president of the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association or a designee; 3) The colonel of the State Police or a designee; 4) the Commissioner of Agricultural Resources or a designee; 5) A representative from the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; 6) A representative from the Animal Rescue League of Boston; 7) A representative from the Massachusetts Bar Association; and 8) 2 persons appointed by the Governor, 1 of whom shall be an animal control officer or representative of an association organized in the Commonwealth for animal control officers and 1 of whom shall be a veterinarian or member of a veterinary medical association organized in the Commonwealth. Provides that the task force shall submit a report of its findings and legislative recommendations to the clerks of the Senate and the House of Representatives and the chairs of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary not later than 12 months after the effective date of this act. Provides that a person convicted of certain animal cruelty violations shall not harbor, own, possess, exercise control over, reside with, adopt, or foster an animal or engage in an occupation, whether paid or unpaid, or participate in a volunteer position at any establishment where animals are present for any length of time that the court deems reasonable for the protection of all animals; provided, however, that the length of time shall not be less than 5 years after the person's date of conviction or release from custody, whichever is later, for a first offense or less than 15 years after the person's date of conviction or release from custody, whichever is later, for a second or subsequent offense.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-16

Title

An Act relative to non-compete agreements for veterinarians

Description

By Ms. Rausch, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1218) of Rebecca L. Rausch for legislation relative to non-compete agreements for veterinarians. Labor and Workforce Development.

Primary Sponsors

Becca Rausch

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Oct 31, 2023, 12:46 PM

Amends Title XVI (Public Health), Chapter 112 (Registration of Certain Professions & Occupations) of MA General Laws by adding a new Section 59B to prohibit non-compete agreements for veterinarians. Provides that any contract or agreement which creates or establishes the terms of a partnership, employment, or any other form of professional relationship with a veterinarian registered to practice veterinary medicine pursuant to section 55 of this chapter, which includes any restriction of the right of such veterinarian to practice veterinary medicine in any geographic area for any period of time after the termination of such partnership, employment or professional relationship shall be void and unenforceable with respect to said restriction; provided, however, that nothing herein shall render void or unenforceable the remaining provisions of any such contract or agreement.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-16

State
MA

Bill Number
S 1309

Last Action
Hearing Scheduled For 09 26 2023
From 01 00 Pm 05 00 Pm In B 1 2023 09
19

Status
In Senate

Position
Monitor

FN Outlook
96.6% 88.7%

Title

An Act to increase kennel safety aka Ollie's Law

Description

By Mr. Montigny, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1309) of Mark C. Montigny, Adam Gomez, Jacob R. Oliveira, Jack Patrick Lewis and other members of the General Court for legislation to increase kennel safety aka Ollie's Law. Municipalities and Regional Government.

Primary Sponsors

Mark Montigny

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 13, 2023, 3:33 PM

"Ollie's Law" amends Part 1 (Administration of the Government), Titles XIX (Agriculture & Conservation) and XX (Public Safety and Good Order), Chapters 129 (Livestock & Disease Control) and 140 (Licenses) of MA General Laws to provide for commercial dog boarding and kennel licensing and standards. Provides that every person operating a kennel shall obtain a license. Provides that the department shall promulgate rules and regulations for commercial boarding kennels, training kennels and personal breeder kennels, including those located at a private residence, including, but not limited to staff to animal ratios, fire and emergency planning, group sizes and supervision, minimum housing and care requirements, indoor and outdoor physical facility requirements, dog handling, veterinary care, insurance, and other general standards of care. Provides that a person who violates this section shall be assessed a fine of \$500 for a first offense and a fine of not more than \$1,000 for a second or subsequent offense. Added Definition: "Personal breeder kennel" means a pack or collection of 3 or more intact female dogs on a single premise, kept for the purpose of breeding and selling the offspring to breeders or individuals by private sale, provided that this does not include a personal kennel where animals are only bred for private personal use and not offered for sale or exchange, nor a commercial breeder kennel where animals are sold or exchanged to wholesalers, brokers or pet shops in return for consideration. Amended Definitions: "Kennel" means a pack or collection of dogs on a single premise, including a commercial boarding or training kennel, commercial breeder kennel, domestic charitable corporation kennel, PERSONAL BREEDER KENNEL, personal kennel or veterinary kennel. "Personal kennel" means a pack or collection of 5 OR MORE DOGS, 6 MONTHS OLD OR OLDER (currently more than 4 dogs, 3 months old or older), owned or kept under single ownership, for private personal use; provided, however, that breeding of personally owned dogs may take place for the purpose of improving, exhibiting or showing the breed or for use in legal sporting activity or for other personal reasons; provided further, that selling, trading, bartering or distributing such breeding from a personal kennel shall be to other breeders or individuals by private sale only and not to wholesalers, brokers or pet shops; provided further, that a personal kennel shall not sell, trade, barter or distribute a dog not bred from its personally-owned dog; and provided further, that dogs temporarily housed at a personal kennel, in conjunction with an animal shelter or rescue registered with the department, may be sold, traded, bartered or distributed if the transfer is not for profit.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-16

State
MA

Bill Number
S 2006

Last Action
**Hearing Scheduled For 10 04 2023
From 10 00 Am 01 00 Pm In A 2 2023
09 22**

Status
In Senate

Position
Monitor

FN Outlook
3.8% 90.6%

Title

An Act to establish the blue-spotted salamander as the official amphibian of the Commonwealth

Description

By Mr. Finegold, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2006) of Barry R. Finegold, Hannah Kane and Jack Patrick Lewis for legislation to establish the blue-spotted salamander as the official amphibian of the Commonwealth. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

Primary Sponsors

Barry Finegold

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Oct 4, 2023, 12:34 PM

An Act amending Title I (Jurisdiction and Emblems of the Commonwealth, The General Court, Statutes & Public Documents), Chapter 2 (Arms, Great Seal & Other Emblems of the Commonwealth) of MA General Laws by adding a new Section 65 (Amphibian of Commonwealth) to establish the blue-spotted salamander as the official amphibian of the Commonwealth. Provides that the Blue-spotted Salamander (*Ambystoma laterale*) shall be the official amphibian of the Commonwealth.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-16

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