



## 2013-2014 Massachusetts Legislative Session

### SUPPORTING

#### **House Bill 680, House Bill 3342: Regulating Groomers and Doggie Day Cares (NEW)**

Two bills have been filed about the regulation of pet groomers and dog day care facilities. There have been recent unfortunate events which precipitated these two filings.

**Status:** Referred to the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture

#### **H. 1262: An Act Increasing Penalties for Cruelty to Animals (NEW)**

This bill would increase the max fine from \$2500 to \$5000 and the maximum penalty from 5 to 10 years.

**Status:** Pending in the Committee on the Judiciary

#### **H.1412: An Act Relative to the Use of Telephones in Places of Detention (NEW)**

Allows a detained person to make an extra phone call to ensure a dependent person or animal is provided care.

**Status:** Pending in the Committee on the Judiciary

#### **H. 3762: An Act Relative to Protecting Puppies and Kittens (NEW)**

Better remedy options for people who purchase dogs/cats with health problems; prevent the sale of puppies/ kittens under 8 weeks; require the regulation of breeders who keep 6 or more females. Shelters are excluded.

**Status:** referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

#### **H. 918: An Act Concerning the Use of Certain Insurance Underwriting Guidelines Pertaining to Dogs Harbored Upon the Insured Property**

To prohibit MA homeowners insurance companies from discriminating or charging higher premiums for coverage based on breeds of dog.

**Status:** Pending in the Committee on Financial Services

#### **H. 1243: An Act Updating the Law Relating to Posting a Security for Seized Animals in Cruelty Cases**

This bill would make a few, mostly technical, changes to the statute that passed in 2002 regarding the seizure of animals in connection with cruelty investigations. The law now allows an authority that seizes an animal pursuant to applicable MA law for alleged cruelty or neglect to request the court to order a refundable security/bond to cover the costs of caring for the animal while it is held until the case is adjudicated. Law enforcement officials must hold seized animals as evidence and thus the animals cannot be adopted or returned to an owner until the case has been adjudicated. Since the law passed in 2002 there have been mixed results with the effectiveness of the law. The changes in this bill are designed to address those issues that have arisen in practice. Additionally, since animal cruelty became a felony in 2004, some of the language is now outdated and would be fixed with this bill.

**Status:** Pending in the Committee on the Judiciary

#### **H. 1852: An Act to Ensure Adequate Care of Animals in Cities and Towns**

This bill would clarify the existing animal cruelty laws and give specific express notice to animal owners and possessors that they have an obligation to provide their animals with veterinary care that is necessary to prevent or relieve their animals' suffering. Over 20 states have some provision in their statutes creating such a duty. It would explain, rather than expand the already existing parameters of the Massachusetts' animal cruelty laws.

**Status:** Pending in the Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government

#### **S. 942: An Act Protecting Abandoned Animals in Vacant Properties**

This bill would require owners of rented properties to check them for abandoned animals within 5 days after tenants move out; if abandoned animals are found, owners must report to the animal control officer or other authorities.

**Status:** Referred to the Committee on Senate Ethics and Rules

#### **S. 952: An Act Strengthening the Enforcement of Certain Dog Laws**

This bill would allow Animal Rescue League of Boston and MSPCA officers to enforce the provisions in the updated Ch. 140 sec 174E to be able to better protect dogs. In 2012, a bill passed known as the "anti-tethering bill" that would prohibit certain inhumane practices for the care of dogs. Currently, the statute is only enforceable by municipal animal control officers, but this bill would allow special state police officers employed by the Animal Rescue League of Boston to also enforce this statute.

**Status:** referred to the House Steering and Policy



**SUPPORTING** continued

**S. 1172: An Act Ensuring the Safety of People with Pets in Disasters**

This bill would ensure that pets are incorporated into municipal and the state disaster plans.

**Status:** Passed the Senate, now pending in House Ways and Means

**OPPOSING**

**S. 969: An Act Relative to Dangerous Dogs in Cities and Towns**

Though the new animal control law, which says that municipalities cannot discriminate based on dog breed, had only been in effect a couple months, a Boston city official filed to repeal that language so that they could again have a breed-discriminatory ordinance.

**Status:** Sent to a “study committee.” Will not advance.

**ASSESSING**

**H. 1416, H. 1335, H. 3692, S. 807, S. 1914: Various Acts Relative to Animal Cruelty**

Arising out of the notoriety of the “Puppy Doe” case, there have been a several bills filed which call for stiffer penalties, language changes (for intent or severity of cruelty) and for animal abuser registries. We will be monitoring [www.malegislature.gov](http://www.malegislature.gov) for updates and working collaboratively with legislators to provide input and guidance as these bills develop.

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