

# New England State Issues November 2022

**Connecticut** – Established in [Public Act No. 22-54](#), the Department of Agriculture has convened a workgroup to explore a state-wide dog license portal. In addition to the Conference of Municipalities, the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association and the Town Clerks Association, AKC and the Connecticut Federation of Dog Clubs and Responsible Dog Owners are discussing provisions for the pre-use testing of the portal by each category of intended users and an implementation plan for consideration by the General Assembly next year that includes flat fees whether your dog is intact or not.

**Maine** – At the November Animal Welfare Advisory Council meeting, members noted that the dog license subcommittee had not met and no new information was provided. Discussion did focus on the lack of access to timely veterinary services to meet the rabies vaccination requirements for dog licensing in the northern part of the state. Members and AKC GR offered ideas on hosting rabies clinics and purchasing affordable microchips in bulk.

**Massachusetts** – On October 28, the House Ways and Means Committee released [HB 5364](#), a redraft of legislation establishing a special commission of 15 members to study and report on the use of service animals in the Commonwealth. AKC GR submitted testimony during the formal session in support of the original bill filed as HB 1563 by Representative Kimberly Ferguson. One seat on the commission would represent an organization appointed by the governor that specializes in the advocacy, education or training of service animals. It is pending consideration by the Joint Rules Committee.

**New Hampshire** – The New Hampshire House of Representatives has begun filing legislative drafts for the next session. AKC is reviewing bill titles as they become available for any nexus with our mission.