

New England State Capitol Issues January 2023

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. This would include flat fees regardless of whether or not a dog is sterilized. The Department has indicated it will request a placeholder filing with the legislature as it finalizes its draft legislation.

Connecticut – [HB 5450](#) would prohibit discrimination in insurance underwriting based on the breed of a homeowner's dog. Representative Nuccio has filed this bill after successfully getting a model act adopted by the National Council of Insurance Lawmakers last year.

Connecticut – [HB 5469](#) would facilitate the annual licensing of dogs by requiring the provision of information concerning the law relating to dog licensing by businesses concerned with the care of dogs.

Connecticut – [HB 5215](#) would establish a taskforce to develop recommendations for legislation to address the epidemic of domestic dog attacks in the state and to expedite appeals of animal control officer orders and minimize the time impounded animals are held at taxpayer expense.

Connecticut – [HB 5109](#) and [SB 75](#) would authorize the emergency treatment and transport of police K9s injured in the line of duty.

Connecticut – [HB 5039](#) would authorize a service animal to travel in an ambulance with its handler.

Connecticut – [SB 729](#) would establish the Siberian Husky as CT state dog.

Connecticut – [SB 53](#) would require veterinarians to report suspected cases of animal cruelty and neglect to the state.

Connecticut – [SB 309](#) would make the dog licensing fees equitable between dogs that are spayed or neutered and dogs that are not spayed or neutered.

Maine – [LD 157](#) would require the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to adopt rules that set standards for animal rescue entities, including but not limited to rescue dog operations, that specify staff-to-animal ratios and that govern animals that are returned multiple times and resold or placed in multiple homes.

Massachusetts – [HD 2483](#) would provide consumer protections at dog day care businesses and is supported by multiple animal welfare organizations including AKC.

Massachusetts – [HD 2497](#) has been re-filed as “Ollie’s Law” and would impose requirements such as staffing ratios for boarding, training, dog day care and personal kennels.

Massachusetts – [SD 2136](#) would among other provisions require a minimum of 100 square feet per dog for outdoor enclosures and ban the kenneling of any dog outside unattended for more than 5 hours or from 10pm to 6am.

Massachusetts – [HD 2938](#) is a re-filed bill that would require pet groomers be licensed by the state and comply with regulations related to the safety, sanitation and operation of a pet grooming business. The proposed definition of “pet groomer” does not make an exception for professional dog handlers traveling to Massachusetts to exhibit a dog.

Massachusetts – [HD 2216](#) would ban animal testing of cosmetic products when an alternative test method is available.

New Hampshire – [HB 258](#) would establish a certification for animal chiropractors and require veterinarian referral. Amendments are in process.

New Hampshire – [HB 230](#) would direct the department of agriculture, markets, and food to employ an electronic data processing system for all registrations under its purview. It appears this would result in an expansion to the state pet vendor license database that is out for bid.

New Hampshire – [HB 141](#) would authorize dogs off leash on certain hiking trails and state parks so long as owner has leash and dog in voice or physical control at all times.

New Hampshire – [HB 260](#) would prohibit the operation of motor vehicles by drivers with animals on their laps or in contact. Comments regarding exceptions for service dogs and dogs suffering an emergency on the way to the veterinarian have been submitted by residents.

New Hampshire – [HB 249](#) would establish regulatory standards for the pet insurance industry. It has been referred to the House Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

New Hampshire – in addition to defining biodiversity and requiring its inclusion in certain land use regulations, [SB 164](#) would create a contract for “guardianship” to preserve the rights of domestic animals and wild animals.

Stacey Ober, J.D.

Government Relations Regional Manager, New England



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®

t: 919-816-3348 | e: stacey.ober@akc.org

AKC's website: www.akc.org

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