

New England State Issues September 2023

Massachusetts – [SB 1056](#) 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. AKC opposes the measure as introduced. [Read more](#).

Massachusetts – In response to dog injuries and deaths at dog day care facilities, [HB 2019](#) and [SB 1309](#) have been re-filed as “Ollie’s Law” and would impose requirements such as staffing ratios for boarding, training, dog day care, breeding and personal kennels. They would authorize animal control officers to inspect and tell you how many dogs you are allowed to own and enforce a new “personal breeder kennel” license for anyone with more than 4 intact female dogs over 6 months who transfers any offspring. Personal breeder kennels and commercial breeder kennels would be held to the same future regulations. They have been referred to the Joint Municipalities and Regional Government Committee and a public hearing is on September 26. AKC will issue an opposition alert once details are confirmed.

Massachusetts – [HB 314](#) would provide consumer protections at dog day care businesses and is supported by multiple animal welfare organizations, including AKC. It has been referred to the Joint Municipalities and Regional Government Committee and a public hearing is on September 26.

Massachusetts – [SB 1311](#) would eliminate from current law text that exempts from pet shop licensure any person selling, exchanging or otherwise transferring the offspring of their personally owned animals. It has been referred to the Joint Municipalities and Regional Government Committee and a public hearing is on September 26. AKC will issue an opposition alert once details are confirmed.

Massachusetts – [HB 2102](#) and [SB 1059](#) would expand the current model of issuing civil fines for neglect of dogs to other domestic animals and send fines collected to the Homeless Animal Prevention and Care Fund instead of the General Fund. These re-filed bills would not require a pen or secure enclosure of 100 sq feet per dog, but in this session, they insert the problematic word “guardian” when referring to owners and keepers. The bills have been referred to the Joint Municipalities and Regional Government Committee and a public hearing is on September 26. [Read more](#).

Massachusetts – [SB 876/HB 1367](#) would prohibit housing authorities and certain housing agreements from discriminating against tenants based upon the size, weight or breed of dog owned. They also prohibit insurance companies from discriminating based upon dog breed and have been referred to the Joint Committee on Housing and a public hearing is scheduled for September 27.

New Hampshire – [HB 37](#) is a re-filed measure that would establish a committee to study best practices for companion animal groomers. At a February 7 public hearing, lawmakers expressed a desire to ensure animals' safety and groomer compliance with best practices without having to create a state occupational license. The House Environment and Agriculture Committee retained the bill and requested the Department of Agriculture post an educational bulletin on standards for responsible groomers. The committee held a work session on September 12 where it was agreed that an amendment be drafted with this directive and considered in October.

Vermont – The [Animal Cruelty Investigations Advisory Board](#) was created by the Vermont General Assembly within the Department of Public Safety to advise the governor, the General Assembly and the commissioner of Public Safety on issues involving the cooperation and coordination of all agencies that exercise animal welfare responsibilities. President of the Vermont Federation of Dog Clubs serves on the board and recent meetings have focused on drafting legislation to consolidate state agencies' animal welfare oversight responsibilities and to regulate animal shelters and rescue organizations. AKC anticipates legislation will be filed for consideration next year.

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