

New England State Issues November 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 which held a public hearing on September 26. Details are in AKC’s [alert](#).

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 which held a public hearing on September 26 and remains pending.

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 which held a public hearing on September 26 and remains pending. Read AKC’s [alert](#).

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. The bills have been referred to the Joint Municipalities and Regional Government Committee and were discussed at a public hearing on September 26 and remain pending.

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. AKC supports these bills, which had a public hearing on September 26 and remain pending.

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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. AKC submitted supportive testimony for the September 27 public hearing. The bills remain pending.

Massachusetts – [HB 801](#) would eliminate a 48 hour facility quarantine requirement when animals are imported from neighboring states for resale or imported directly to permanent or temporary Massachusetts foster homes. Massachusetts foster homes are volunteers, not per se health experts. AKC believes HB 801 may reduce compliance and increase the risk of communicable disease spread to Massachusetts animals and citizens and testified in opposition at the November 8 Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources' public hearing.

Massachusetts – [HB 747](#), [HB 826](#), [SB 549](#), and [SB 550](#) would require Massachusetts licensed pet shops or future pet shops to only provide the public with dogs and cats sourced from animal shelter or rescue organizations. In AKC's experience, the number of puppies produced by responsible breeders does not satisfy demand. Shelter and rescue animals are not the best option for every family that wants a pet. AKC issued [an alert](#) and testimony was provided in opposition to these bills at the November 8 Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources' public hearing.

New Hampshire – [HB 37](#) 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 committee voted the bill “inexpedient to legislate” on October 25. Instead, the committee is asking a state agency to post a consumer guide that will assist the public in choosing a pet groomer.

Local Issues November 2023

MA, Barnstable – The town is updating its dog and kennel licenses and held a public hearing on October 18. The [proposal](#) intends to establish a new “multiple dog licenses” category for a private residence maintaining four to six dogs or for breeding dogs for show or sport which sells dogs from two or less litters per year, in lieu of obtaining a kennel license. In order to obtain a kennel license, applicants would need to secure site plan review and zoning board approval because they would be treated as commercial use. AKC and a resident AKC breeder met with town officials on November 7 to discuss where the draft is confusing and raises concerns. AKC is submitting suggested edits and issued [an alert](#).

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