

New England State Issues January 2024

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 had a hearing in the Joint Municipalities and Regional Government Committee on September 26 and remain pending. 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 – [HB 2423](#) would expand Nero’s law to authorize providing advanced life support measures that match the expertise of emergency personnel and may in fact provide greater protection. AKC testified in support of the bill on December 11, 2023. The bill remains pending.

Massachusetts – [HB 2424](#) would establish a Retired Police Dog Care Fund. Police K9s are exceptional dogs with exceptional training that immeasurably enhance public safety. AKC testified on December 11 in support noting the provisions of veterinary medical care to assure the wellbeing of these retired dogs ought to be a high priority. The bill remains 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.

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 remains pending after a September public hearing in the Joint Municipalities and Regional Government Committee. Read AKC's [alert](#).

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.

Massachusetts – [HB 4241](#) is an abuse and exploitation prevention bill favorably released from committee and passed in the House on January 10. It would also define "coercive control" allowing restraining **New Hampshire** – [HB 1102](#) would label brachycephaly a "birth deformity" and make the breeding or sale of any animal that has a "birth deformity" that causes suffering, such as brachycephaly, a crime. A public hearing

scheduled in the House Environment and Agriculture Committee for January 16 has been postponed. AKC encourages clubs to continue drafting their statements in opposition. [Read AKC's alert for more information.](#)

New Hampshire – [SB 541](#) would create a new pet vendor definition for “retail pet store” as any licensed pet vendor that transfers animals at retail to the public from a physical facility; cap these “retail pet stores” to the transferring of cats and dogs at 2023 levels; prohibit the sale of “retail pet stores” to anyone but family members; and require future NH “retail pet stores” to source dogs and cats only from animal shelters. AKC issued [this alert](#) and will testify in opposition on January 4. A companion bill, [HB 1680](#), will be considered by the House Environment and Agriculture Committee on January 16. Details are [here](#).

New Hampshire – [SB 385](#) would allow payments from the cost of care fund to be distributed to a third party for the care of animals during animal cruelty cases. It is pending in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

New Hampshire – [SB 587](#) has been filed to allow animals in a litter transported into the state to be quarantined together. As filed, the bill could result in additional quarantine exemptions. AKC submitted testimony expressing concern and with NH DOGS requested an amendment by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources during the January 9 public hearing.

New Hampshire – [HB 1316](#) would define “co-ownership” of dogs so the city of Manchester, NH, could verify whether dogs being boarded at an individual’s house without the proper zoning permit is valid or not. AKC is working with the bill sponsor and city to identify an alternative solution. The bill is pending in the House Environment and Agriculture Committee.

New Hampshire – [HB 1501](#) would repeal the requirement that cats and dogs be registered annually. The bill is pending in the House Environment and Agriculture Committee.

New Hampshire – [HB 1505](#) would establish an animal abuse offender registry. The bill is pending in the House Environment and Agriculture Committee.

New Hampshire – [HB 1233](#) would exempt individuals who have completed a nationally recognized animal chiropractic program, as determined by the executive

director of the office of professional licensure and certification, from veterinary licensure requirements.

New Hampshire – [HB 1556](#) would remove the requirement that dogs exempt from the rabies vaccine be muzzled. The bill is pending in the House Environment and Agriculture Committee.

New Hampshire – [HB 1526](#) would enable the board of veterinary medicine to issue a conditional veterinary license for veterinarians who are educated in other countries.

New Hampshire – [HB 1173](#) would authorize seizure and a court order to issue and euthanize any dog that has attacked a human being or a domestic animal which resulted in the puncture or tearing of skin, two or more times within a 12 month period. The bill is pending in the House Environment and Agriculture Committee.

Vermont – [H. 626](#) is a 61-page animal welfare bill that would establish a Division of Animal Welfare at the Department of Public Safety to develop, implement, and administer a centralized program for investigating and enforcing animal welfare requirements in the State. It would also amend or establish standards for the operation of animal shelters and animal rescue organizations and detail requirements for the importation or transportation of animals into the State.

Vermont – [HB 407](#) proposes to allow courts the discretion to place restrictions on people convicted of animal cruelty offenses regarding their future ownership interest in animals.

Vermont – [HB 536](#) would prohibit insurance companies from discriminating against homeowners based solely on the presence of one or more domestic dogs of a specific breed or mixture of breeds.

Vermont – [HB 567](#) prohibit a pet shop in the State from selling dogs, cats, or wolf-hybrids, unless the pet shop is providing space to an animal shelter or a rescue organization offering dogs, cats, or wolf-hybrids to the public for adoption for an adoption fee or the pet shop was selling dogs, cats, or wolf-hybrids prior to July 1, 2024, and the pet shop maintains its ownership and license and does not exceed the number of dogs, cats, or wolf-hybrids sold prior in calendar year 2023.

Vermont - [HB 234](#) would create an animal control program that would establish regional offices to: support municipalities with control programs and services primarily directed at domestic pets; provide free or low-cost vaccination, spay, and neuter programs; and investigate potential locations, resources, and personnel to establish regional pound and shelter facilities.