

New England State Issues September 2024

Massachusetts – In response to dog injuries and deaths at dog day care facilities, [HB 2019](#) and [SB 1309](#) were 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 have authorized 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. Details are in AKC’s [alert](#). The Joint Municipalities and Regional Government Committee favorably released Senate and House companion mirror bills, [HB 4564](#) and [SB 2731](#), which moved to their respective Ways and Means Committees. AKC is appreciative the committee removed the anti-breeder text from the bill. More details are [here](#). On July 25, House Ways and Means released an amended bill, [HB 4919](#) and passed it. The Senate then inserted new text for HB 4919 as [SB 2929](#) and passed it. Differences are detailed [here](#). The Legislature ended formal lawmaking for the year on August 1 but on September 13, the House accepted the Senate amendments and the Senate immediately sent the bill to the Governor. It was signed into law on September 20 as [Chapter 213 of the Acts of 2024](#).

Massachusetts – [HB 1718](#) and [SB 1142](#) would establish a taskforce of Massachusetts lawyers and MSPCA/ARL-Boston to review cruelty laws and make recommendations including whether to establish a domestic animal cruelty misdemeanor charge; prohibit sale of animals under 8 weeks and transferring animals roadside with few exceptions; and allow for animal seizure and owner’s payment of board pending court action for suspected neglect. AKC testified in support of the humane care provisions of the bills and requested the committee ensure due process protections and consistent terminology. The Joint Judiciary Committee released a re-draft, now [SB 2757](#), that narrows the bill’s scope to prohibit selling of animals under 8 weeks and transferring animals roadside with few exceptions. The Senate Rules Committee amended and favorably released the measure on July 29 as [SB 2908](#). The amendment also prohibits animal shelters and rescues from transferring animals under 8 weeks of age. After Senate passage, SB 2908 was referred to the committee on House Steering, Policy and Scheduling. The Legislature ended formal lawmaking for the year on August 1 and it’s unclear if the bill will advance during the informal session that ends December 31, 2024.

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