

HOUSE No. 640

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act relative to the greyhound adoption trust fund..

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 The Greyhound Adoption Trust Fund and the Council will be established under the
2 Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Any Trust funds not obligated under the
3 current program administered by the Department of Agricultural Resources will be transferred to
4 the Greyhound Adoption Trust Fund established herein. The Council is authorized to spend up to
5 \$30,000 per year from the Trust to cover the cost associated with staff and administration of the
6 program. The Council will meet in full session at least once each quarter to review the programs
7 funded by the Trust and to consider any new requests for Adoption Group registration.

8 • The Council will consist of designated representatives of the following
9 groups/organizations. Council members will serve without compensation.

10 * Ex-officio, the Treasurer or his designee

11 * A representative of each of the Greyhound racetracks

12 * A representative of the Greyhound kennel operators at each of the Greyhound
13 racetracks

14 * A representative of the Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association provided that
15 such designated representative shall have no financial or service arrangement with any
16 Greyhound adoption group eligible to benefit from the Trust.

17 * A representative of the Racing Commission

18 * A representative of the AFL-CIO

19 * A representative from an independent Greyhound adoption or welfare organization who
20 will represent the Greyhound Adoption groups.

21 Funds in the Greyhound Adoption Trust Fund not obligated by the end of any calendar
22 (funding) year will be rolled over into the next year until the expiration of this legislation. Funds
23 not obligated by expiration of this legislation will be disbursed on a prorata basis to the
24 Massachusetts Adoption Group registered with the Council based on the total number of
25 Greyhounds retired from Massachusetts Greyhound racetracks that the group has placed in the
26 last full year of the program.

27 Every Greyhound completing its racing career at a track in Massachusetts will be issued a
28 voucher by the Racing Secretary at the time the dog is designated to be retired. The voucher will
29 specify the registered racing name and ear tattoos of the designated Greyhound. The voucher will
30 be redeemable by a licensed veterinarian through the Trust for veterinary services not to exceed
31 \$220 for spay/neuter, teeth cleaning, heartworm testing and inoculations.

32 Any greyhound injured during racing or schooling at a Massachusetts track, and that
33 injury determined by the kennel owner/trainer and the racing department to be the end of the
34 dogs career as a racer, will be issued an additional voucher for the repair of such injury. The

35 voucher will specify the registered racing name and ear tattoos of the designated Greyhound. The
36 voucher will be redeemable by a licensed veterinarian through the Trust for veterinary services
37 not to exceed \$1500.

38 Vouchers will be redeemable upon submission of invoice and voucher from the
39 veterinarian.

40 Any Greyhound issued a voucher for veterinary services under this program will not be
41 eligible to race at any track.

42 If veterinary services covered by vouchers are performed for any Greyhound before it has
43 been placed with a qualified adoption group, the kennel owners/trainers will hold the Greyhound
44 until they find an adoption group that is qualified to place the dog as a pet.

45 In addition, Massachusetts Greyhound Adoption programs registered with the Council
46 under the requirements specified below will be paid an amount of \$300 for each Greyhound that
47 has been whelped in Massachusetts or retired from a Massachusetts Greyhound racetrack and
48 \$100 for each Greyhound who has schooled or raced at a Massachusetts Greyhound racetrack
49 and subsequently retired from a track in another jurisdiction upon accepting the Greyhound into
50 their program and submitting the documentation described below.

51 Greyhound Adoption programs outside of Massachusetts registered with the Council
52 under the requirements specified below will be paid \$100 for each Greyhound whelped in
53 Massachusetts or retired from Massachusetts Greyhound tracks dog accepted into their program
54 upon submitting the documentation described below.

55 Total available funds to be disbursed to the groups will be determined quarterly based on
56 the income received by the Trust from the tracks under the provisions of the enabling legislation.

57 Payout of funds to adoption groups will be made quarterly on a first come, first served
58 basis with priority given to Greyhounds that retired from Massachusetts tracks until the funds for
59 that quarter are exhausted. Requests for payment that exceed the available funds in any quarter
60 will not be carried forward. They will be returned to the submitting adoption group and be
61 eligible for resubmission for the next quarterly payment cycle.

62 Requirements for registration as an eligible Greyhound Adoption group:

63 Non-profit organization as defined in the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, the laws of the
64 Commonwealth of Massachusetts or equivalent Canadian laws.

65 Documented experience with Greyhound adoption.

66 A group in existence for two or more years, or a new group where the founders have four
67 or more years experience with a previously established group.

68 The practices of the adoption group must include spay/neuter of all adopted Greyhounds
69 prior to placement.

70 The group must have written contract requiring an adopted Greyhound that cannot be
71 kept be returned to the group originally placing it.

72 The group must have written policies for screening of applicants and procedures for
73 follow-up after placement.

74 May not be involved in the sale, barter or exchange of Greyhounds.

75 May not have been involved in the sale, exchange, or donation of any Greyhound for the
76 purpose of laboratory testing or research.

77 The council shall authorize no expenditure pursuant to a contract with a person,
78 corporation, partnership, trust or any combination of the same or other entity which owns,
79 operates or holds any interest in any race track or other facility which operates pari-mutuel
80 racing of greyhounds, or is licensed to operate such a facility pursuant to section 3 of chapter
81 128A. The council shall authorize no expenditure to any entity that either promotes or opposes
82 dog racing or has either promoted or opposed dog racing in the past.

83 Greyhound Adoption programs that have previously applied for and received funding
84 from the Council would be automatically registered as an eligible adoption group and would not
85 have to reregister.

86 Documentation required for payment:

87 Identifying information on the individual dog (Name, tattoo numbers)

88 Spay/neuter certificate signed by a veterinarian registered in the jurisdiction in which the
89 procedure was performed. The spay/neuter certificate to include identification of the Greyhound
90 by tattoo numbers.

91 Written certification from either the Greyhound's registered owner, a Massachusetts
92 racing kennel, a Massachusetts Greyhound racetrack or the National Greyhound Association that
93 the identified Greyhound was bred, whelped, schooled or raced in Massachusetts.

94 No additional documentation is required to qualify for payment.

95 The Council may grant any additional remaining funds to adoption groups who adopt
96 over 50 percent of their dogs directly from Massachusetts tracks or any other organization for
97 any other programs to promote Greyhound adoption and increase the adoption of more
98 Greyhounds as pets.