HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 2063 FILED ON: 1/15/2015

HOUSE . . . . . No. 713

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Stephen Kulik

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to promote the care and well-being of livestock.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Stephen Kulik	*1st Franklin*
Stephen L. DiNatale	*3rd Worcester*
Sarah K. Peake	*4th Barnstable*
Keiko M. Orrall	*12th Bristol*
Steven S. Howitt	*4th Bristol*
William Smitty Pignatelli	*4th Berkshire*
Carolyn C. Dykema	*8th Middlesex*
John W. Scibak	*2nd Hampshire*
Jennifer E. Benson	*37th Middlesex*
Barbara A. L'Italien	*Second Essex and Middlesex*
Gailanne M. Cariddi	*1st Berkshire*
Kate Hogan	*3rd Middlesex*
Harold P. Naughton, Jr.	*12th Worcester*
Chris Walsh	*6th Middlesex*

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 2063 FILED ON: 1/15/2015

HOUSE . . . . . No. 713

By Mr. Kulik of Worthington, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 713) of Stephen Kulik and others for legislation to direct the Commissioner of the Department of Agricultural Resources to establish a livestock care and standards board to ensure the humane keeping and treatment of livestock. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. *4008* OF 2013-2014.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)

An Act to promote the care and well-being of livestock.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 128 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008 official edition, is hereby amended by inserting the following new sections:-

Section AA. The Commissioner shall establish a Livestock Care and Standards Board consisting of 13 members, of which the Commissioner, or his designee, shall be a member and chair. Additional members shall include: a representative of the Massachusetts Veterinary Medicine Association, appointed by the Board of Directors of that organization, who is experienced in the care and keeping of livestock; a large animal veterinarian, appointed by the Governor, who is experienced in the care and keeping of livestock,; a representative of the Department of Public Health, assigned by the Commissioner of Public Health, who is

10 knowledgeable in the areas of zoonotic disease and food safety; a representative of a
11 Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; a representative of the Animal
12 Rescue League of Boston; a representative of the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation; a
13 representative of the Massachusetts chapter of the Northeast Organic Farming Association;
14 representative of a family farm involved in the raising of poultry, appointed by the
15 Commissioner; two representatives of a family farms involved in the rearing of cows, swine,
16 goats, sheep and/or horses, appointed by the Commissioner; a representative of one of the Buy
17 Local organizations, or equivalent organizations identified by the Commissioner, provided that
18 terms shall rotate between different Buy Local groups; and a representative of the Cumming
19 School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, as appointed by the Dean.

20 Members shall serve a term of three years, and shall remain eligible for reappointment at
21 the end of terms served. The purpose of the Board shall be to advise the Commissioner on
22 appropriate actions to be taken by the Commissioner to help ensure the humane keeping and
23 treatment of livestock, and the viability of farms and related businesses involved in the rearing
24 and keeping of livestock.

25 Section BB. The Commissioner may promulgate regulations and/or voluntary standards
26 governing the care and well-being of cattle, swine, poultry, and other livestock; provided
27 however that such regulations and standards are approved by a minimum of a two-thirds vote of
28 the Livestock Care Board. Factors to be considered in the promulgation of these standards shall
29 include but not be limited to: the health, safety, comfort of animals; food safety; biosecurity,
30 animal health and public health; and the financial impact/viability of farms and related
31 businesses impacted by said standards.

32 Section CC. Upon establishment, at the first official meeting thereof, the Commission
33 shall examine practices relating to battery cage hen operations, swine gestation crates and veal
34 crates and determine appropriate actions to undertake. The Commission shall examine whether
35 bans, regulations, guidelines or other measures, if any, are necessary or appropriate relative to
36 such practices within the Commonwealth. Subsequent to addressing these two topics, the
37 Commission shall examine additional practices and topics at the request of any two members.
38 All meeting shall occur in accordance with state open public meeting requirements and efforts
39 shall be made to ensure meetings are held at a variety of geographic locations throughout the
40 state.