

**SENATE . . . . . No. 2229**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court**  
**(2015-2016)**  
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SENATE, Tuesday, April 19, 2016

The committee on Municipalities and Regional Government to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1092) of Mark C. Montigny for legislation relative to tethering of dogs,- reports the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 2229).

For the committee,  
Barbara A. L'Italien

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to tethering of dogs.

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

1           SECTION 1. Section 174E of chapter 140 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out subsection (a).)

3           SECTION 2. Said section 174E of chapter 140 of the General Laws, is hereby further  
4 amended by inserting, after clause (v) the following clauses:-

5 (vi) the tether shall be designed for dogs and no logging chains or other lines or devices not  
6 designed for tethering dogs shall be used. No tether shall weigh more than 1/8 of the dog's body  
7 weight; and

8 (vii) No dog under the age of 6 months shall be tethered outside for any length of time.

9           SECTION 3. Said section 174E of chapter 140 of the General Laws, is hereby further  
10 amended by striking, in lines 63-64, subsection (d) and inserting in place thereof the following  
11 words:-

12           (d) No person owning or keeping a dog shall leave a dog tethered outside during the  
13 hours of 10:00pm to 6:00am unless the owner, guardian, or keeper is outside and the dog is in

14 sight of the owner, guardian or keeper, unless the tethering is for a duration of not longer than  
15 fifteen minutes.

16 (e) No person shall leave a dog outdoors when a weather advisory or warning is issued by  
17 local, state or federal authorities or when outdoor environmental conditions, including, but not  
18 limited to, extreme heat, cold, wind, rain, snow or hail, pose an adverse risk to the health or  
19 safety of such dog based on such dog's breed, age or physical condition, unless tethering is for a  
20 duration of not longer than fifteen minutes.

21 SECTION 4. Said section 174E of chapter 140 of the General Laws, is hereby further  
22 amended by inserting, in line 70, after the word “dog” the following words:- “,or pursuant the  
23 requirements of a camping or recreational area.”

24 SECTION 5. Said section 174E of chapter 140 of the General Laws, is hereby amended  
25 by striking out in line 87, the words “for a second offense, be punished by a fine of not more than  
26 \$100 and for a third or subsequent offense, be punished by a fine of not more than \$300,” and  
27 inserting in place thereof the following words: - “for a second offense, be punished by a fine of  
28 not more than \$200 and for a third or subsequent offense, be punished by a fine of not more than  
29 \$500,”.