

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1758**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Bruce J. Ayers*

*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 relative to further increasing the fines for cruelty to animals, and establishing a fund dedicated to improvements for local animal shelters.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Bruce J. Ayers</i>	<i>1st Norfolk</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>
<i>Norman J. Orrall</i>	<i>12th Bristol</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1758**

---

By Mr. Ayers of Quincy, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1758) of Bruce J. Ayers, Patrick M. O'Connor and Norman J. Orrall relative to increasing the fines for cruelty to animals and establishing a fund dedicated to improvements for local animal shelters. Municipalities and Regional Government.

---

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1079 OF 2017-2018.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

—————  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**  
—————

An Act relative to further increasing the fines for cruelty to animals, and establishing a fund dedicated to improvements for local animal shelters.

*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 77 of Chapter 272 of the General Laws is hereby amended by  
2 striking out the figure “\$5,000” and inserting in place thereof the figure “\$5,500”; Section 77 is  
3 further amended by striking the figure “\$10,000” and inserting in place thereof the figure  
4 “\$11,000”

5           SECTION 2. No more than \$500 from a single fine incurred for a first offense, and no  
6 more than \$1,000 from a single fine incurred for subsequent offenses, shall be designated  
7 towards a special account in the municipality where the violation occurred.

8           The monies shall be used solely for funding improvements to the local municipality's  
9 animal shelter. Funds designated towards municipalities without an animal shelter within their  
10 jurisdiction will be utilized at the discretion of the local municipality, providing it benefits local  
11 groups, nonprofit organizations, or public entities dedicated to the humane treatment of animals  
12 and/or the promotion of the adoption of shelter animals.