SENATE DOCKET, NO. 1665 FILED ON: 2/18/2021

SENATE . . . . . No. 585

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Mark C. Montigny

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 prevent animal suffering by irresponsible breeding practices.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Mark C. Montigny	*Second Bristol and Plymouth*

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SENATE . . . . . No. 585

By Mr. Montigny, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 585) of Mark C. Montigny for legislation to prevent animal suffering by irresponsible breeding practices. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. *504* OF 2019-2020.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)

An Act to prevent animal suffering by irresponsible breeding practices.

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. Section 136A of chapter 140 of the General Laws, as so appearing in the 2018 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “kennel” in line 77 the following words: - “at least 1 or more dogs bred on a residential property or”

SECTION 2. Section 137A of chapter 140 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “officer” in line 11 the following words:-

", conducted at least once per calendar year. Each inspection shall, at a minimum, ensure the premises contains safe, sanitary and humane conditions including, but not limited to, adequate space per animal, sufficient food and water, shelter to protect against environmental elements, and records of animal health and vaccinations. A copy of said license shall be readily

available at the kennel. No licensing authority shall issue a kennel license to any person convicted under sections 77, 80 ½, 94 or 95 of chapter 272."

SECTION 3. Section 137B of chapter 140 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “shall” in line 8 the following:-

"inform the recipient of its responsibility to license the dog within two weeks,"

SECTION 4. Section 137C of chapter 140 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking the last sentence and inserting in place thereof the following 3 sentences:-

"A person maintaining a kennel while such license is suspended shall be punished by a fine of not less than $500 and revocation of such license. A person maintaining a kennel without a license, or after the license to maintain a kennel has been so revoked, shall be punished by a fine of not less than $2,500. In lieu of such fine, an animal control officer, in his discretion, may request such person relinquish ownership of all dogs on the premises to animal control or other appropriate law enforcement agency. If such person does not own one or more dogs on the premises, then such person may relinquish custody along with the owner’s name and address to animal control or other appropriate law enforcement agency."