

HOUSE No. 314

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Danielle W. Gregoire

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 provide consumer protections at dog day care businesses.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Danielle W. Gregoire</i>	<i>4th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/19/2023</i>
<i>Steven George Xiarhos</i>	<i>5th Barnstable</i>	<i>1/31/2023</i>
<i>Josh S. Cutler</i>	<i>6th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/31/2023</i>
<i>Samantha Montaño</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/9/2023</i>
<i>Joseph D. McKenna</i>	<i>18th Worcester</i>	<i>2/9/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 314

By Representative Gregoire of Marlborough, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 314) of Danielle W. Gregoire and others relative to licensing of dog day care businesses. Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)

An Act to provide consumer protections at dog day care businesses.

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 1 of chapter 129 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the definition of “Division”, the following
3 new definition:-

4 “Dog day care business,” the business of furnishing supervision, control and management
5 of dogs socializing in groups with responsibility for food, water, exercise and the provision of
6 care to maintain the safety and well-being of dogs at the establishment that are not the property
7 of the business owner.

8 SECTION 2. Section 9 of said chapter 129 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is
9 hereby amended by inserting after the words “guard dog business,” the following:- any dog day
10 care business,

11 SECTION 3. Chapter 129 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
12 section 39G the following new section:-

13 39H. Every person engaged in operating a dog day care business shall obtain a license
14 therefor from the director, the fee for which shall be determined annually by the commissioner of
15 administration under the provision of section three B of chapter seven for the filing thereof, and
16 such licenses shall expire on December thirty-first following the date of issuance, unless sooner
17 revoked. The director shall make rules and regulations governing the method and time of
18 inspections of said businesses, issuance, suspension and revocation of such licenses, penalties for
19 violations of this section and the conduct of the businesses so licensed relative to sanitation
20 requirements, operational safety standards, and risk management procedures. Rules and
21 regulations shall include, but not be limited to, minimum commercial general liability insurance
22 requirements; fire and emergency procedures; approved education, testing, accreditation or
23 certification for dog day care animal care providers; and animal health and behavior
24 recordkeeping, including an obligation to report to the director serious injuries to animals or
25 people.

26 SECTION 4. The director shall obtain input from current Massachusetts dog day care
27 business owners, employees, animal owners, licensed veterinarians and experts on industry best
28 practices prior to drafting regulations for promulgation in compliance with chapter 30A and shall
29 accept applications for dog day care business licensure under section 39H of chapter 129 of the
30 General Laws on or before December 1, 2024.