

SENATE No. 550

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Patrick M. O'Connor

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 banning the retail sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits in pet shops.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i> | <i>First Plymouth and Norfolk</i> | |
| <i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i> | <i>12th Hampden</i> | <i>2/6/2023</i> |
| <i>Steven S. Howitt</i> | <i>4th Bristol</i> | <i>2/13/2023</i> |
| <i>John F. Keenan</i> | <i>Norfolk and Plymouth</i> | <i>2/14/2023</i> |
| <i>Adam Gomez</i> | <i>Hampden</i> | <i>2/21/2023</i> |
| <i>Jason M. Lewis</i> | <i>Fifth Middlesex</i> | <i>3/3/2023</i> |
| <i>Walter F. Timilty</i> | <i>Norfolk, Plymouth and Bristol</i> | <i>3/14/2023</i> |
| <i>John C. Velis</i> | <i>Hampden and Hampshire</i> | <i>6/12/2023</i> |
| <i>Nick Collins</i> | <i>First Suffolk</i> | <i>1/19/2024</i> |
| <i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i> | <i>Second Middlesex</i> | <i>1/25/2024</i> |
| <i>Bruce E. Tarr</i> | <i>First Essex and Middlesex</i> | <i>2/7/2024</i> |
| <i>Joseph W. McGonagle, Jr.</i> | <i>28th Middlesex</i> | <i>5/30/2024</i> |

SENATE No. 550

By Mr. O'Connor, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 550) of Patrick M. O'Connor, Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr., Steven S. Howitt, John F. Keenan and other members of the General Court for legislation banning the retail sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits in pet shops. Environment and Natural Resources.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act banning the retail sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits in pet shops.

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 39A of Chapter 129 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting before the word “Every”, in line 1, the letter:-(a)

3 SECTION 2. Section 39A of Chapter 129 of the General Law is hereby further amended
4 by striking out the word “section”, in line 13, and inserting in place thereof the following word:-
5 subsection

6 SECTION 3. Section 39A of Chapter 129 of the General Laws is hereby further amended
7 by inserting after subsection (a) the following new subsections:-

8 (b) No person engaged in the business of operating a pet shop for which a license must be
9 obtained pursuant to subsection (a); and are regulated under 330 CMR 12.00 shall sell or offer
10 for sale a dog, cat, or rabbit.

11 (c) Subsection (b) shall not be construed to prohibit a pet shop from offering space to an
12 animal rescue or shelter organization to showcase dogs, cats, or rabbits for adoption so long as
13 the pet shop does not have an ownership interest in the animals offered for adoption.

14 (d) Nothing in subsections (b) or (c) shall affect the authority of any town, city, or other
15 locality to regulate or prohibit the sale of dogs, cats, or rabbits.

16 SECTION 4. This act shall go into effect 90 days after its passage.