

HOUSE No. 4022

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James C. Arena-DeRosa

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 resolve:

Resolve providing for the study and investigation relative to the efficacy of alternative treatments for veterinary medicine.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: | DATE ADDED: |
|------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| <i>James C. Arena-DeRosa</i> | <i>8th Middlesex</i> | <i>1/17/2025</i> |

HOUSE No. 4022

By Representative Arena-DeRosa of Holliston, a petition (accompanied by resolve, House, No. 4022) of James C. Arena-DeRosa for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to the rabies vaccine laws and exempting certain pets with illness from said vaccine. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

Resolve providing for the study and investigation relative to the efficacy of alternative treatments for veterinary medicine.

1 **Resolved**, there shall be established, pursuant to section 2A of chapter 4 of the General
2 Laws, a special commission for the purposes of a study relative to the efficacy and safety of
3 amending the commonwealth’s rabies vaccine laws pursuant to section 145B of chapter 140 of
4 the General Laws to exempt certain pets with illness who display a sufficient level of rabies
5 antibodies from receiving a rabies vaccine.

6 The members of the special commission shall consist of: (i) the chairs of the joint
7 committee on public health or their designees, who shall serve as co-chairs; (ii) the
8 commissioner of the department of public health or their designee; (iii) the commissioner of the
9 division of occupational licensure or their designee; and (iv) the 5 members of the board of
10 registration in veterinary medicine pursuant to section 26 of chapter 13 of the General Laws.

11 The special commission shall determine the safety and efficacy of: (i) administering the
12 rabies vaccines to animals with an illness subject to section 145B of chapter 140 of the General

13 Laws; and (ii) amending the commonwealth's rabies vaccine laws to create an exemption for
14 animals with an illness whereby a rabies titer test would be used to determine if the animal's
15 rabies antibody levels are high enough to be deemed sufficiently immune and therefore able to
16 forego a rabies vaccine.

17 All appointments to the special commission shall be made not later than 30 days after the
18 effective date of this resolve.

19 The special commission shall prepare a report detailing the results of the study, along
20 with its findings and any recommendations for legislation. The report shall be submitted to the
21 clerks of the house of representatives and senate not later than January 1, 2027.