

HOUSE No.

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:

Bruce J. Ayers

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

1st Norfolk

DATE ADDED:

1/15/2025

HOUSE No.

[Pin Slip]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 2022 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

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.