SENATE DOCKET, NO. 309 FILED ON: 1/19/2011

SENATE . . . . . No. 335

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Stephen M. Brewer

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 passage of the accompanying:

An Act to promote the care and wellbeing of livestock.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Stephen M. Brewer	*Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin*
Steven S. Howitt	*4th Bristol*
Daniel A. Wolf	*[District]*
Michael J. Rodrigues	*[District]*
Bruce E. Tarr	*[District]*
Stephen Kulik	*1st Franklin*
Kate Hogan	*3rd Middlesex*

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SENATE . . . . . No. 335

By Mr. Brewer, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 335) of Stephen M. Brewer, Steven Howitt, Daniel A. Wolf, Michael J. Rodrigues and other members of the General Court for legislation to promote the care and wellbeing of livestock. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act to promote the care and wellbeing of livestock.

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. Chapter 128 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008 officia edition, is hereby amended by inserting the following new sections:-

Section AA. The Commissioner shall establish a Livestock Care and Standards Board consisting of 11 members, of which the Commissioner, or his designee, shall be a member and chair. Additional members shall include: a representative of the Massachusetts Veterinary Medicine Association, appointed by the Board of Directors of that organization, who is experienced in the care and keeping of livestock; a large animal veterinarian, appointed by the Governor, who is experienced in the care and keeping of livestock; a representative of the Department of Public Health, assigned by the Commissioner of Public Health, who is knowledgeable in the areas of zoonotic disease and food safety; a representative of a Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; a representative of the Animal Rescue League of Boston; a representative of the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation; a representative of the Massachusetts chapter of the Northeast Organic Farming Association; representative of a family farm involved in the raising of poultry, appointed by the Commissioner; and two representatives of a family farms involved in the rearing of cows, swine, goats, sheep and/or horses, appointed by the Commissioner.

Members shall serve a term of three years, and shall remain eligible for reappointment at the end of terms served. The purpose of the Board shall be to advise the Commissioner on appropriate actions to be taken by the Commissioner to help ensure the humane keeping and

treatment of livestock, and the viability of farms and related businesses involved in the rearing and keeping of livestock.

Section BB. The Commissioner may promulgate regulations and/or voluntary standards governing the care and well-being of cattle, swine, poultry, and other livestock; provided however that such regulations and standards are approved by a minimum of a two-thirds vote of the Livestock Care Board. Factors to be considered in the promulgation of these standards shall include but not be limited to: the health, safety, comfort of animals; food safety; biosecurity, animal health and public health; and the financial impact/viability of farms and related businesses impacted by said standards.