

Joint Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries
Bill Summary

Bill Number: H.122

Title: An Act relative to the preservation of existing pet cemeteries

Sponsors: Representative Elliott of Lowell

Cosponsors: Representative Arciero of Westford

Hearing Date: Wednesday, July 9, 2025 at 1:00 PM - 05:00 PM, A-1

Reporting Date: Sunday, September 7, 2025

Similar Matters: None

Prior History

2023-2024: Filed as H.4206; Referred to the Joint Committee on Agriculture; Accompanied study order H.4522.

Current Law

Chapter 129 of the Massachusetts General Laws concerns livestock disease control.

Summary

This bill defines domestic pets and pet cemeteries, two terms which are currently undefined in the General Laws. The bill requires that any property owner who is using or plans to use a property as a pet cemetery file with the applicable register of deeds. This filing will include a dedication which restricts the property to remain a pet cemetery, forbidding it from being remanded to another purpose.

The owners of these pet cemeteries will be required to keep records of all pets buried on the property as well as their location. This bill would include all properties that meet the definition of pet cemetery, including those which were used for this purpose before the bill would go into effect.