

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
BILL SUMMARY**

BILL NO. H1938

TITLE: An Act enhancing the issuance of citations for cruel conditions for animals.

SPONSOR: Rep. Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.

COSPONSOR(S):

Rep. Lindsay N. Sabadosa	Rep. Brian W. Murray
Rep. Samantha Montaña	Rep. Mike Connolly
Rep. James K. Hawkins	Rep. Tara T. Hong
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Rep. Adrian C. Madaro	Rep. Natalie M. Higgins
Rep. Paul J. Donato	Sen. Bruce E. Tarr
Sen. Jacob R. Oliveira	Sen. James B. Eldridge
Sen. Michael D. Brady	

HEARING DATE: July 29, 2025

PRIOR HISTORY: None

SENATE BILL: S1190 (Montigny)

REPORTING DEADLINE: September 27, 2025 (subject extensions, in accordance with House Rule 27)

CURRENT LAW: Section 174E of Chapter 140 of the General Laws criminalizes chaining or tethering a dog for longer than 5 hours in a 24-hour period and outside from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. Confining a dog outside is permissible if done in keeping with several conditions including supplying water and shelter, not doing so during a weather advisory, and avoiding any cruel conditions. Violating the statute is punishable by an escalating fine for each offense: \$50 for first, \$200 for a second, and \$500 for every time after that.

BILL SUMMARY: Sections 1 and 2 – Replace “Dog” in Section 174E with “Animal”

Section 3 – Instructs the commissioner of the department of agricultural resources to promulgate regulations to implement and enforce Section 174E.

