

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
BILL SUMMARY**

BILL NO. H1949

TITLE: An Act relative to protecting cats and dogs from slaughter

SPONSOR: Rep. David Robertson

CO-SPONSOR(S): None

HEARING DATE: July 29, 2025

PRIOR HISTORY: H1730 (2023-2024)
H1845 (2021-2022)

SENATE BILL: None

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

CURRENT LAW: Section 78 of Chapter 272 of the General Laws prohibits the sale of horses who cannot work without violating Section 77 unless they are for human keeping or sacrifice. This is punishable by a fine of between \$5 and \$150 or imprisonment of up to six months and loss of auctioneering license if applicable.

Section 80C of Chapter 272 of the General Laws prohibits taking a dog, cat, or bird with the intent to sell for the purpose of or for the purpose of experimentation or mutilation of the animal. This is punishable by a fine of between \$150 and the maximum larceny fine related to the animal’s monetary value.

BILL SUMMARY: Adds a new section to Chapter 272. Defines “Cat”, “Consumption”, “Dog”, and “Slaughter”. Prohibits a person from possessing, importing, selling, buying, giving away, trafficking or accepting a dog or cat for the purpose of slaughter. Establishes a penalty of up to 7 years in state prison or up to 2.5 years in an HOC or a \$5,000 fine for the first offense and a penalty of up to 10 years in state prison and/or a fine of \$10,000 for the second and subsequent offenses. It excludes those acting in lawful practices.