

Massachusetts House of Representatives Bill Summary

Bill #: H.2247

Title: An Act relative to further increasing the fines for cruelty to animals, and establishing a fund dedicated to improvements for local animal shelters

Sponsor: Rep. Bruce Ayers

Committee: Municipalities and Regional Government

Hearing Date:

Prior History: Refile of H.2022 (OTP)

Current Law: Chapter 272 Section 77 of MGL defines the law regarding cruelty to animals and prohibition from working with animals.

Summary: Section 1 of the bill would increase the fine for animal cruelty. First offense violation would be increased from \$5,000 to \$5,500, and all subsequent violations from \$10,000 to \$11,000.

Section 2 states that no more than \$500 from a first offense and \$1,000 from subsequent offenses be designated towards a special account in the municipality where the violation occurred. The money shall be used solely for improving the municipality's animal shelter. If there is no local shelter, then the money will be utilized at the municipality's discretion, provided that it benefits local groups, NPOs, or public entities dedicated to the humane treatment of animals and/or the promotion of animal adoption shelters.

Notes: