

**Massachusetts House of Representatives  
Bill Summary**

**Bill #:** H.4212

**Title:** An Act authorizing the town of Lancaster to dissolve its animal control commission

**Sponsor:** Rep. Meghan Kilcoyne

**Committee:** Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government

**Hearing Date:** July 22, 2025

**Current Law:**

Chapter 179 of the Acts of 2004 creates the Lancaster Animal Control Commission, which is empowered with all duties of the Select Board as they relate to the care and control of animals, with the option for expansion of powers. The board consists of between five and seven members with staggered three-year terms.

Chapter 10 of the Lancaster Bylaws deals with Animal Control. Section 1 defines the Lancaster Animal Control Officer as an individual authorized to enforce Sections 136A to 174E, inclusive, of Chapter 140 of the MGL.

Sections 136A to 174E, inclusive, of Chapter 140 of the MGL cover many issues related to animal control, including registration, licensing, fees, vaccinations, euthanasia, and more.

**Summary:**

Section 1 repeals Chapter 179 of the Acts of 2004.

Section 2 states that this act takes effect upon passage.

**Notes:**

Approved by vote of the Lancaster Town Meeting during the May 6, 2025 meeting.