

BARK THE ALERT!

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PROPOSED MA LAWS THREATEN THE FUTURE OF RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERS AND BREEDERS

- **HB1874/SB401 would hurt—and perhaps eliminate—responsible home-based dog breeders in Massachusetts by classifying them as “pet shops” and “pet dealers.”**

Why is this a problem? Small, home-based breeders do not maintain “commercial” kennel facilities that would comply with rules for pet shops and animal dealers.

AND, if designated by these laws as a pet shop/dealer, many fanciers and hobby breeders could be out of compliance with zoning codes.

These bills would also establish unfair and unrealistic consumer protection standards that could actually reduce protections that responsible breeders provide to puppy buyers.

- **SB969 would allow communities to enact breed-specific laws.** Will your breed be banned next?
- **HB1852 would make it an animal cruelty offense to fail to provide veterinary care “that results in unnecessary suffering.”** We all abhor animal cruelty, but this broad and vague provision could make it a violation for a layperson to administer first aid for minor injuries or provide home treatment for common disorders such as mild ear inflammations.

Dog Owners in Massachusetts—ACT NOW!

Send a respectful, but strong message to your lawmakers and ask them to vote NO on these proposed laws:

House Bill 1874, Senate Bill 401, Senate Bill 969, and House Bill 1852

These bills will be considered by committee members on Tuesday, June 4. Send your message of opposition today—take time to call and email. Sample email and voice mail messages are provided on the reverse side.

CALL TODAY – NUMBERS COUNT!

Senate Members – Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government

Sen. Sal N. DiDomenico
617-722-1650

Sal.DiDomenico@masenate.gov

Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz
617-722-1673

Sonia.Chang-Diaz@masenate.gov

Sen. William N. Brownsberger
617-722-1280

William.Brownsberger@masenate.gov

Sen. James E. Timilty
617-722-1222

James.Timilty@masenate.gov

Sen. Barry R. Finegold
617-722-1612

Barry.Finegold@MASenate.gov

Sen. Richard J. Ross
617-722-1555

Richard.Ross@masenate.gov

House Members – Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government

Rep. Sarah K. Peake
617-722-2090

Sarah.Peake@mahouse.gov

Rep. Gailanne Cariddi
617-722-2450

Gailanne.Cariddi@mahouse.gov

Rep. Thomas M. Stanley
617-722-2230

Thomas.Stanley@mahouse.gov

Rep. Sean Garballey
617-722-2090

Sean.Garballey@mahouse.gov

Rep. Rhonda Nyman
617-722-2210

Rhonda.Nyman@MAhouse.gov

Rep. Wayne A. Matewsky
617-722-2090

Wayne.Matewsky@mahouse.gov

Rep. Kevin J. Kuros
617-722-2460

Kevin.Kuros@mahouse.gov

Rep. Cleon H. Turner
617-722-2090

Cleon.Turner@mahouse.gov

Rep. Timothy R. Madden
617-722-2810

Timothy.Madden@mahouse.gov

Rep. David M. Rogers
617-722-2400

Dave.Rogers@mahouse.gov

Rep. Peter Durant
617-722-2060

Peter.Durant@mahouse.gov

For information about attending the committee meeting, contact the Massachusetts Federation of Dog Clubs at email info@massfeddogs.org, (508) 966-4564 & (508) 612-9553.

Learn more about how these proposed laws could affect your rights and the future of responsibly-bred dogs in Massachusetts.

Visit www.akc.org/governmentrelations and click on “Legislative Alerts”, call 919-816-3720, or email doglaw@akc.org.



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Sample messages to legislators from responsible dog owners

Please remember, NUMBERS COUNT! Don't hang up if you reach voice mail for your legislator or a legislative staff member – leave a polite message of opposition, the bill numbers, your name, and your address (city or county is fine).

Sample Message #1:

Hello, my name is _____ and I live in _____. As a responsible dog owner, I am calling to ask you to vote NO on the following overreaching and unnecessary bills: House Bill 1874, Senate Bill 401, Senate Bill 969, and House Bill 1852. Thank you.

Sample Message #2:

Hello, my name is _____ and I live in _____. I am calling to ask you to oppose four measures that would negatively impact responsible dog owners and breeders. Please vote NO on House Bill 1874, Senate Bill 401, Senate Bill 969, and House Bill 1852. I believe these laws are unnecessary and expensive. Thank you.

Sample Message #3:

Hello, my name is _____ and I live in _____. I am calling to ask you to vote NO on four problematic bills that would negatively impact responsible dog owners. The bills I oppose are House Bill 1874, Senate Bill 401, Senate Bill 969, and House Bill 1852. I suggest that resources should be used to enforce existing animal cruelty laws instead of creating new and unnecessary levels of bureaucracy. Thank you.

Sample Message #4:

Hello, my name is _____ and I live in _____. I am calling to ask you to vote NO on House Bill 1874, Senate Bill 401, Senate Bill 969, and House Bill 1852. I believe these types of legislation infringe on the rights of responsible dog owners, breeders, and sportsmen. Thank you.

Sample Email Letter (please personalize before sending):

Dear (Representative or Senator) _____,

Please vote no on House Bill 1874/Senate Bill 401, Senate Bill 969, and House Bill 1852.

As your constituent, I respectfully ask that you oppose these four problematic bills that would affect responsible dog owners and small, home-based hobby breeders who own just a few dogs and occasionally breed a litter in their homes.

HB1874/SB401 would consider a hobby breeder to be a commercial enterprise similar to a “pet dealer” or “pet store.” This is simply not reasonable, nor is it in the best interest of puppies that are raised in loving home settings. These bills would also enact very one-sided “consumer protection” provisions. These provisions don't even allow a person who sells a pet to obtain a second opinion from his or her veterinarian if the pet should contract an illness or suffer an injury after it is in the possession of a new owner.

SB 969 would repeal a very important law that was passed last year – a good law that prevents a dog from being declared “dangerous” based solely on its breed.

SB 1852 would make it an animal cruelty offense if a person fails to provide veterinary care that “results in unnecessary suffering.” This is too vague, and could make it a violation for a layperson to give first aid to a pet for a minor injury, or could penalize a person who is unable to provide extraordinary levels of treatment to a much-loved animal that is aged or terminally ill.

It is not in the best interest of my dogs—nor is it a good use of public resources—to pass vague and overreaching laws or laws that would expand governmental oversight into the homes of hobby breeders. Please vote no on these measures.

Sincerely,

(Your name and address)