



**OPPOSE HB1079 – An Act Relative to Further Increasing the
Fines for Cruelty to Animals and
Establishing a Fund Dedicated to Improvements for Local Animal Shelters
[Rep. Bruce Ayers (D)]
Referred to Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government**

WHAT THIS BILL DOES:

This bill increases the fines for animal cruelty, indicates an amount of fines be directed towards a special account in a municipality for animal shelter improvements.

WHY YOU SHOULD OPPOSE THIS BILL:

The amount of increase in cruelty fines will not serve as a further deterrent for animal cruelty. The percentage of fines directed toward an animal control facility is not adequate for significant improvements, and monies from fines go to the individual municipality where the violation occurred, regardless of whether that municipality actually has its own animal shelter, shares one with another municipality, or even has none at all. Extra work and complication would be created for towns, all 351 of which, regardless of size (and many are tiny), would have to add and maintain a permanent, separate account for such funds, even though most often the account would be empty or contain only tiny amounts of money. A more appropriate use of funds would be to establish a statewide fund that can be used by municipalities as needed.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Massachusetts Federation of Dog Clubs and Responsible Dog Owners
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08/30/17

HOUSE No. 1079
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:
Bruce J. Ayers

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:
An Act relative to further increasing the fines for cruelty to animals, and establishing a fund dedicated to improvements for local animal shelters.

PETITION OF:
NAME: DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Bruce J. Ayers 1st Norfolk

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)

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

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 77 of Chapter 272 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the figure “\$5,000” and inserting in place
3 thereof the figure “\$5,500”; Section 77 is further amended by striking the figure “\$10,000” and
4 inserting in place thereof the figure “\$11,000”

5 SECTION 2. No more than \$500 from a single fine incurred for a first offense, and no
6 more than \$1,000 from a single fine incurred for subsequent offenses, shall be designated
7 towards a special account in the municipality where the violation occurred.

8 The monies shall be used solely for funding improvements to the local municipality’s
9 animal shelter. Funds designated towards municipalities without an animal shelter within their
10 jurisdiction will be utilized at the discretion of the local municipality, providing it benefits local
11 groups, nonprofit organizations, or public entities dedicated to the humane treatment of animals
12 and/or the promotion of the adoption of shelter animals.