



**SUPPORT SB947 – An Act Relative to Dog Training Areas
in the Commonwealth**

Sen. Gobi (D)

Referred to Joint Committee on the Judiciary

PROBLEM:

Responsible dog trainers have purchased and developed property for the purpose of training sporting dogs. Urban sprawl has encroached on their land, with new neighbors complaining about the noise involved in dog training.

HISTORY:

Hunting with dogs is a time honored pastime in Massachusetts. Historically, mankind used dogs to help hunt and ensure survival of their families. In the past century, the casual hunter could train his family dog on the abundant grouse in any New England wood lot. Now, loss of habitat from the change in farming practices and creeping urbanization have severely altered wildlife populations and dog training practices. This loss of habitat has been and is being addressed by the people who have purchased and developed land for the training of sporting dogs.

WHAT THIS BILL DOES:

This bill will protect owners of sporting dog training property that were in compliance with applicable noise control laws or ordinances at the time the land was developed from noise complaints by their neighbors.

WHY YOU SHOULD SUPPORT THIS BILL:

1. Land available for training sporting dogs is dwindling due to urban sprawl.
2. Training sporting dogs on land protected for that purpose provides a safe and controlled area for such training.
3. Training sporting dogs is of great assistance in the conservation of game during hunting.
4. Owners of sporting dog training land also make their property available to the public for hunting and blueberry picking

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Massachusetts Federation of Dog Clubs and Responsible Dog Owners

Ms. Virginia Rowland, Blackslate@aol.com; 978-424-1044

Ms. Luanne Witt, luanne.witt@cagents.com; 508-838-3494

03/03/19

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Anne M. Gobi

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 dog training areas in the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Anne M. Gobi

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex

SENATE No.

[Pin Slip]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 866 OF 2017-2018.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act relative to dog training areas in the Commonwealth.

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. Chapter 140 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by inserting after section 157A the following section:

3 Section 157B. All owners of sporting dog training areas in this Commonwealth shall be
4 exempt and immune from civil action or criminal prosecution in any matter relating to noise or
5 noise pollution resulting from the normal and accepted dog training activity of sporting dog
6 training areas, provided that the owners of the sporting dog training areas are in compliance with
7 any applicable noise control laws or ordinances extant at the time the establishment of the
8 sporting dog training area was initiated. The owners of sporting dog training areas shall not be
9 subject to any action for nuisance and no person(s) or court in the Commonwealth shall enjoin
10 the use or operation of the sporting dog training areas on the basis of noise or noise pollution
11 provided that the owners of the sporting dog training areas are in compliance with any applicable

- 12 noise control laws or ordinances extant at the time the establishment of the sporting dog training
13 area was initiated.