

**HOUSE . . . . . No.**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Natalie M. Higgins and Kimberly N. Ferguson*

*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 banning the retail sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits in new pet shops.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	<i>1/18/2023</i>
<i>Kimberly N. Ferguson</i>	<i>1st Worcester</i>	<i>1/18/2023</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No.**

[Pin Slip]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)

An Act banning the retail sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits in new pet shops.

*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 39A of Chapter 129 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting before the word “Every”, in line 1, the letter:-

3 (a)

4 SECTION 2. Section 39A of Chapter 129 of the General Law, , is hereby further  
5 amended by striking out the word “section”, in line 13, and inserting in place thereof the  
6 following word:-

7 subsection

8 SECTION 3. Section 39A of Chapter 129 of the General Laws is hereby further amended  
9 by inserting after subsection (a) the following new subsections:-

10 (b) No person engaged in the business of operating a pet shop for which a license must be  
11 obtained pursuant to subsection (a); and are regulated under 330 CMR 12.00 shall sell or offer  
12 for sale a dog or cat, unless:

13 (1) the person engaged in the business of operating the pet shop received a Class A  
14 license from the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources on or before the effective  
15 date of this act; and

16 (2) such person only sells or offers for sale dogs or cats from the location licensed to sell  
17 or offer for sale dogs or cats under subsection (b) paragraph (1).

18 (c) No person engaged in the business of operating a pet shop for which a license must be  
19 obtained pursuant to subsection (a); and are regulated under 330 CMR 12.00 shall sell or offer  
20 for sale a rabbit, unless:

21 (1) the person engaged in the business of operating the pet shop sold rabbits on or before  
22 the effective date of this act; and

23 (2) such person only sells or offers for sale rabbits from the location licensed to sell or  
24 offer for sale animals under 330 CMR 12.00.

25 (d) Nothing in subsections (b) or (c) shall affect the authority of any town, city, or other  
26 locality to regulate or prohibit the sale of dogs, cats, or rabbits.

27 SECTION 4. Whereas, the deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose,  
28 which is to establish forthwith certain changes to pet shop licensing and operations law,  
29 therefore, it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation  
30 of the public health.