

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4470**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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INITIATIVE PETITION OF NEHOBE KRISTINE ACEVEDO  
AND OTHERS.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY.  
BOSTON, JANUARY 8, 2008.

Steven T. James  
*Clerk of the House of Representatives*  
State House  
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Sir: — I herewith transmit to you, in accordance with the requirements of Article XLVIII of the Amendments to the Constitution, an Initiative Petition for An Act to Protect Greyhounds, signed by ten qualified voters and filed with this department on or before December 5, 2007, together with additional signatures of qualified voters in the number of 79,055, being sufficient number to comply with the Provisions of said Article.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN,  
*Secretary of the Commonwealth.*

AN INITIATIVE PETITION.

Pursuant to Article XLVIII of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth, as amended, the undersigned qualified voters of the Commonwealth, ten in number at least, hereby petition for the enactment into law of the following measure:

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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In the Year Two Thousand and Eight.

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AN ACT TO PROTECT GREYHOUNDS.

*Be it enacted by the People, and by their authority, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Declaration of purpose. The citizens of Massa-  
2 chusetts find that commercial dog racing is cruel and inhumane,  
3 and as recommended by the Humane Society of the United States,  
4 the Animal Rescue League of Boston, GREY2K USA, and the  
5 Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals,  
6 declare that it should be prohibited in the Commonwealth.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 128A of the General Laws, as appearing  
2 in the 2006 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after  
3 Section 14D the following section:—

4 Section 14E. Notwithstanding the provisions of this Chapter or  
5 any general or special law to the contrary, no dog racing or racing  
6 meeting where any form of betting or wagering on the speed or  
7 ability of dogs occurs shall be conducted or permitted in this  
8 Commonwealth and the commission is hereby prohibited from  
9 accepting or approving any application or request for racing dates  
10 for dog racing.

11 Any person violating any provision of this section relative to  
12 dog racing shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than  
13 twenty thousand dollars which shall be payable to the commission  
14 and used for administrative purposes of the commission subject to  
15 appropriation.

16 All other provisions of this Chapter shall be construed as if they  
17 contain no references to dogs, dog racing or dog races.

18 Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the  
19 effective date of this section shall be January 1, 2010.

1 SECTION 3. The several provisions of this Act are independent  
2 and severable and the invalidity, if any, of any part or feature

3 thereof shall not affect or render the remainder of the Act invalid  
4 or inoperative.

## FIRST TEN SIGNERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RESIDENCE</u>	<u>CITY OR TOWN</u>
Nehobe Kristine Acevedo	33 Wave Avenue #3	Revere
Anne P. Albanese	68 Azalea Drive	Taunton
Paul Blanchard	16 Round Hill Road	Lexington
Christine A. Dorchak	11A Lakeview street	Arlington
Carter J. Luke	5 Palmer Road	Sandwich
Lorraine A. Nicotera	1800 Commercial Street	Weymouth
James O'Keefe	25 Moore Street	Somerville
Linda Rapa	11 Ox Yoke Drive	Methuen
Carolyn Roux	59 Holden Road	Sterling
Marisa Shea	108 Milford Street	Medway

## CERTIFICATE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

September 5, 2007.

Honorable William Francis Galvin  
*Secretary of the Commonwealth*  
One Ashburton Place, Room 1705  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

RE: Initiative Petition No. 07-06: An Act to Protect Greyhounds  
(Version A).

Dear Secretary Galvin:

In accordance with the provisions of Article 48 of the Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution, I have reviewed the above-referenced initiative petition, which was submitted to me on or before the first Wednesday of August of this year.

I hereby certify that this measure is in proper form for submission to the people; that the measure is not, either affirmatively or negatively, substantially the same as any measure which has been qualified for submission or submitted to the people at either of the two preceding biennial state elections; and that it contains only subjects that are related or are mutually dependent and which are not excluded from the initiative process pursuant to Article 48, the Initiative, Part 2, Section 2.

In accordance with Article 48, I enclose a fair, concise summary of the measure.

Cordially,

MARTHA COAKLEY,  
*Attorney General.*

## SUMMARY OF INITIATIVE PETITION.

This proposed law would prohibit any dog racing or racing meeting in Massachusetts where any form of betting or wagering on the speed or ability of dogs occurs.

The State Racing Commission would be prohibited from accepting or approving any application or request for racing dates for dog racing.

Any person violating the proposed law could be required to pay a civil penalty of not less than \$20,000 to the Commission. The penalty would be used for the Commission's administrative purposes, subject to appropriation by the state Legislature. All existing parts of the chapter of the state's General Laws concerning dog and horse racing meetings would be interpreted as if they did not refer to dogs.

These changes would take effect January 1, 2010. The proposed law states that if any of its parts were declared invalid, the other parts would stay in effect.