

HOUSE No. 4753

By Representative Frost of Auburn and Senator Augustus, joint petition of Paul K. Frost and Edward M. Augustus, Jr., for legislation to prohibit the leasing or renting of dogs and cats. Municipalities and Regional Government.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Paul K. Frost	Denise Provost
Edward M. Augustus, Jr.	Jennifer M. Callahan
John P. Fresolo	Bradford Hill
Stephen R. Canessa	William N. Brownsberger
Cheryl A. Coakley-Rivera	Karyn E. Polito
Thomas P. Kennedy	Cynthia S. Creem
Denis E. Guyer	James B. Eldridge
Kay Khan	Lida E. Harkins
Robert A. Antonioni	Michael F. Rush

In the Year Two Thousand and Eight.

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE RENTING OF PETS.

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

1 Chapter 272 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting
2 after section 80H the following section:—
3 Section 80 I. No person shall engage in the business of leasing or
4 renting dogs and cats. Any dogs or cats held for such leasing or
5 renting may be seized or impounded by an organization or autho-
6 rized agent thereof that is empowered to seize or impound under the
7 General Laws. For the purpose of this section, leasing or renting a
8 dog or cat shall mean the intentional practice and advertising of
9 renting a dog or a cat for a fee or a cost which knowingly will result
10 in a temporary ownership of the animal by another party. A violation
11 of this section shall be punished by a fine of not less than one hun-
12 dred dollars and not more than five hundred dollars. This section is
13 not intended to prohibit service animal businesses or organizations,
14 pet adoption and foster care services, and working animals for the

15 following purposes but not limited to farming and agriculture, enter-
16 tainment and shows which are already acceptable under the General
17 Laws, sporting and hunting, racing and for breeding purposes so
18 long it is not contrary to the General Laws. Further, this section will
19 not prohibit a pet store or kennel or pet adoption service or other
20 entity allowed to sell pets under the General Laws for a fee or a cost
21 from taking back a pet they may have sold if the owner cannot keep
22 or handle the pet they had acquired.