

SB2646 (Chapter 219 of 2018) - An Act to protect animal welfare and safety in cities and towns

Sponsor:	Conference Committee
Cosponsors:	No Cosponsors
Related Bills:	SB2347

Summary:

Amends various laws regarding animal cruelty in the Commonwealth. In particular, the bill increases fines imposed for violation of dog control laws, and adds a fine of \$50 for an initial offense; increases the penalty for violation of laws related to the licensing and registration of dogs, the operation of kennels and the sale or delivery of unlicensed dogs from \$50 to \$500 for an initial offense, and for \$1,000 for a subsequent offense; requires employees of the Disabled Persons Protection Commission, the Department of Elder Affairs, or contractors for the departments, to report suspected animal cruelty, abuse or neglect discovered in the course of their duties.

The bill prohibits the euthanization of animals by drowning and imposes criminal fines and terms of imprisonment; amends the reporting of animal cruelty, abuse or neglect by employees or contractors of the Department of Children and Families discovered in the course of their duties; changes numerous areas of the criminal code regarding animal cruelty; imposes fines for the listed crimes related to animal cruelty, including willfully injuring police dogs and horses, exhibition of wild animals, sale of foals under five months, devocalization of cats and dogs and cropping or cutting of dog ears; prohibits and criminalizes sexual contact between humans and animals in any way.

The bill requires apartment lessors and owners of foreclosed properties to inspect the premises for abandoned animals within 3 days of the property being vacated; requires lessors and owners of foreclosed properties to inform animal services of any abandoned animals and imposes a fine up to \$500 for a first offense and up to \$1,000 for each subsequent offense for failure to do so; amends provisions regarding the seizure of animals intended or engaged in animal fighting, by eliminating provisions mandating their destruction and permitting turning them over to an appropriate animal care organization to determine if they are suitable for adoption; establishes and regulates the membership and operation of a special commission to determine the feasibility and costs of having animal control officers report known or suspected abuse of children and elderly and disabled persons.

(New draft of SB 2347. The new language submits the recommendations of the conference committee to harmonize differences between SB 2347 and HB 4565. This language makes many technical and grammatical changes. It additionally adds a new requirement for owners of foreclosed properties to inspect them within 3 days and report abandoned animals. It also eliminates language requiring animal control officers to report suspected child, elder and disabled person abuse found in the course of their duties and instead creates a commission to study the issue. The new bill further eliminates provisions barring insurance companies from providing coverage for damage caused by certain dogs, and instead requires collection of information relating to dog-related insurance claims for a period of 3 years.)

Filed Text PDF:

[http://instatrac.com/MA/2017\\_2018/pdfs/SB2646.FIL.pdf](http://instatrac.com/MA/2017_2018/pdfs/SB2646.FIL.pdf)

Citations:	MGL 4:2A, MGL 6:178C, MGL 10:35WW, MGL 19A, MGL 19A:15, MGL 19C, MGL 19C:1, MGL 22C:57, MGL 40:21D, MGL 112, MGL 119:21, MGL 119:85, MGL 186A, MGL 123B:1, MGL 131:19B, MGL 140, MGL 140:136A, MGL 140:137A, MGL 140:137C, MGL 140:141, MGL 140:151, MGL 140:173, MGL 140:173A, MGL 140:174E, MGL 186, MGL 186:14, MGL 218:26, MGL 233:20B, MGL 239, MGL 239:4, MGL 244, MGL 266:112, MGL 272, MGL 272:77, MGL 272:79, MGL 272:80H, MGL 272:91, MGL 272:104, MGL 276:58A; MGL 140:174F MGL 186:30 MGL 244:41 MGL 272:77C
Categories:	Business; Business - Business Regulation; Business - Food/Agriculture; Business - Pets/Animals/Zoos; Crimes; Crimes - Property Crimes; Domestic Relations; Domestic Relations - Wills/Trusts/Probate; Environment; Environment - Clean Air/Water; Health Care; Health Care - Health Professionals; Housing; Housing - Landlord/Tenant; Human Services; Human Services - Abuse/Neglect; Human Services - Disabled Persons; Human Services - Elderly/Aging; Human Services - Mental Health; Human Services - Status Offenders; Insurance; Insurance - Medicaid/MassHealth; Judiciary; Judiciary - Civil Procedure; Judiciary - Courts; Judiciary - Criminal Procedure; Local Government; Local Government - Cities/Towns; Public Safety; Public Safety - Police/Fire; Public Safety - Sex Offenders; State Government; State Government - Constitutional Officers; State Government - Governor/Executive; State Government - Pensions/Retirement; State Government - Professional Licensure; State Government - State Employees;
Intro Date:	2018-08-01
Progress:	Passed Into Law
Status:	Signed by the Governor (SIGNED)
Last Action:	08/09/18 - G - Signed by the Governor
Complete History:	08/01/18 - S - Conference committee report submitted - see SB2347 08/01/18 - S - Conference committee report accepted (37/0) 08/01/18 - H - Conference committee report accepted (151/0) 08/02/18 - H - Enacted in the House 08/02/18 - S - Enacted in the Senate 08/02/18 - G - Laid before the Governor 08/09/18 - G - Signed by the Governor