



**Hearing Scheduled**  
**5/12/09**  
**1pm Rm B-2**

**SUPPORT HB192 – An Act Requiring Pet Shop Owners to Provide Basic Pet Care Information to Consumers (Rep. Atsalis)**

Referred to Joint Committee on Community Development & Small Business (JCD)

**WHAT THIS BILL DOES:**

Requires at least one 8.5x11" page of basic care information free of charge for all birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and fish sold in pet shops.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

**Massachusetts Federation of Dog Clubs and Responsible Dog Owners**

Virginia Rowland, President; blacksplate@aol.com; 978-424-1044

Julie Rembrandt Seeley, Corresponding Secretary; jrembrandtseeley@aol.com; 978-456-8644

MassFed: 05/07/09

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 533 FILED ON: 1/8/2009

**HOUSE ..... No. 192**

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:  
Demetrius J. Atsalis

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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act requiring pet shop owners to provide basic pet care information to consumers.

Demetrius J. Atsalis, Second Barnstable; Kevin Aguiar 7th Bristol

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION

SEE HOUSE, NO. 147 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT REQUIRING PET SHOP OWNERS TO PROVIDE BASIC PET CARE INFORMATION TO CONSUMERS.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 129 of the General Laws , as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 39A, the following section 39A1/2:--

Section 39A1/2. Every person engaged in the business of operating a pet shop and selling pet animals on the premises, shall display and provide free basic care information on all birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and fish sold on the premises. The care information shall be developed with and approved by the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Veterinary Medicine and contained on at least one 8 1/2 by 11-inch sheet of paper that shall be provided free of charge to consumers.

**CURRENT LAW**

CHAPTER 129. LIVESTOCK DISEASE CONTROL

Chapter 129: Section 39A. Pet shops; licensing operation; animal health inspections

Section 39A. Every person engaged in the business of operating a pet shop, shall obtain a license therefor from the director, the fee for which shall be determined annually by the commissioner of administration under the provision of section three B of chapter seven for the filing thereof, and such license shall expire on December thirty-first following the date of issuance, unless sooner revoked. The director, subject to the approval of the governor, may make rules and regulations governing the issuance and revocation of such licenses and the conduct of the businesses so licensed and relative to the maintenance of premises, buildings and conveyances, the health of the birds, mammals or reptiles and the method and time of inspection and checking of said animals.

This section shall not apply to a publicly or privately owned zoological park, a publicly owned animal pound, an institution, as defined in section one of chapter forty-nine A, to persons selling, exchanging or otherwise transferring the offspring of their personally owned animals, or to horse or cattle auctions.