



Hearing 9/10/09
10:00 am
Room A1/A2

SUPPORT SB2041 – An Act Relative to Greyhound Racing (Sen. Pacheco)

Referred to Joint Committee on Economic Development & Emerging Technologies

PROBLEM:

Greyhound racing will become illegal effective January 1, 2010. The untimely closing of the tracks puts many people out of work at a time when the economy makes finding employment extremely difficult. This is both unfair and unnecessary, and leaves a large number of Massachusetts citizens in dire financial situations.

WHAT THIS BILL DOES:

Extends the date of closing from January 1, 2010 to January 1, 2012.

WHY YOU SHOULD SUPPORT:

1. Since 1935 there has not been one documented case of mistreatment of a Greyhound at a Massachusetts facility. If MA cruelty laws were being violated this would not be the case.
2. Greyhounds are housed in climate-controlled facilities.
3. The Crates are larger than the size used for St Bernards. They can easily move about and stretch. The dogs each day (racing or not) are turned out at least 2X in the AM, 1X in the afternoon and 1X at night. Usually there are one to three additional turnouts.
4. Greyhounds love to run. In fact the tracks hold reunion days for retired Greyhounds and they are eager to get out and run on the tracks!
5. MA Greyhound disposition records show 99.3% going into adoption programs, moving to new track, or returned to breeder/owner/farm. This figure is well over the Industry average of 90% . Data compiled by racing commission.
6. Track injuries in MA (Raynham & Wonderland) are extremely low. From 2002-2007 there were 714. This is from 465,176 starts. 0.0015 injury / start ratio. Data compiled by racing commission.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Massachusetts Federation of Dog Clubs and Responsible Dog Owners

Holly Stump, Board Member, hollystump@hickoryhillkennel.com; 508-843-6358

Nancy Fisk, Vice President, akikoakitas@aol.com; 508-966-4564

SENATE DOCKET, NO. 1641 FILED ON: 1/13/2009

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:
Mr. Pacheco

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 Relative to Greyhound Racing.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
James H. Fagan	3rd Bristol
Thomas P. Kennedy	Second Plymouth and Bristol

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT RELATIVE TO GREYHOUND RACING.

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

Chapter 388 of the Acts of 2008 is hereby amended, in Section 2, by striking the last sentence and inserting in its place the following:-

Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the effective date of this section shall be January 1, 2012.