



**OPPOSE HB2454 – An Act Relative to the Adoption of Animals Used in Research**  
**Rep. Carolyn Dykema (D)**  
Referred to Joint Committee on Public Health

**WHAT THIS BILL DOES:**

This bill requires a research institution or product testing facility that intends to euthanize or destroy a dog, cat, other sentient creatures (except humans) to place this animal with an animal shelter or rescue organization for the purpose of placing/rehoming it.

**WHY YOU SHOULD OPPOSE THIS BILL:**

This bill is similar to HB3232 and SB489 but it requires research facilities to be licensed (already the law) and requires rather than suggests that animals be placed with shelter or rescue organizations who are essentially unregulated which is not in the best interest of the animals.

Research facilities would be forced into placing animals with no immunity from liability for potential future problems the animals cause due to inappropriate placement with a family.

This bill provides no real parameters for animals to be placed. There are many reasons that may prevent an animal being suitable for placement.

This and similar bills are less focused on the care and retirement of post-study animals than on “showcasing these animals as props” to misinform the public about their lives in research. The true agenda is to manipulate public opinion and end the search for treatments and cures from the biomedical profession.

*Reference: naiastrust.org*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Massachusetts Federation of Dog Clubs and Responsible Dog Owners  
Julie Rembrandt Seeley; 978-456-8644; jrembrandtseeley@charter.net  
Rebecca Leonard, 508-653-6139; 5inWayland@gmail.com

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**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2454**

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Carolyn C. Dykema*

*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 adoption of the accompanying bill:  
**An Act relative to the adoption of animals used in research.**

PETITION OF:

Carolyn C. Dykema 8th Middlesex; Lori A. Ehrlich 8th Essex; Daniel J. Ryan 2nd Suffolk; Denise Provost 27th Middlesex;  
Leonard Mirra 2nd Essex; Michelle M. DuBois 10th Plymouth; Brendan P. Crighton 11th Essex

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court  
(2017-2018)**

An Act relative to the adoption of animals used in research.

*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 140, of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out section 174D and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

Section 174D.(a) For purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:-

"Animal adoption or animal rescue organization", a collaboration of individuals or a nonprofit organization exempt from taxation pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of the United States, as amended from time to time that has, as part of such collaboration's or organization's purposes, the sale or placement of animals removed from animal shelters, municipal dog pounds, or an individual's home.

(b) No research institution shall employ dogs or cats in scientific investigation, experiment or instruction or for the testing of drugs or medicines without having first been issued a license therefor under this section by the commissioner of public health. A research institution desiring to obtain a license shall make application to the commissioner of public health. On receipt of such application the commissioner of public health shall make or cause to be made such investigation as he may deem necessary to determine whether the public interest would be served by the issue of such license. The commissioner of public health shall issue such license unless, after notice and hearing, he finds that the research institution, by reason of its standards, facilities, practices or activities, is not a fit and proper institution to receive such license, and that the issue thereof is not in the public interest. Each research institution licensed under this chapter shall before such license issues pay to the commissioner of public health a license fee of fifty dollars. Each license shall expire on June thirtieth next following the date of issue. The commissioner of public health shall annually renew each license upon the application of the licensee unless, after notice and hearing, he or she finds that by reason of the standards, facilities, practices or activities of the licensee such renewal is not in the public interest. The commissioner of public health may, after notice and hearing, cancel, suspend or revoke any license if he or she finds that by reason of the standards, facilities, practices or activities of the licensee the continuation of such license is not in the public interest.

(c) A research institution shall offer for adoption by an animal adoption or animal rescue organization any cat or dog that such research possesses for the purpose of conducting research or testing provided such offer occurs after the completion of any such research or testing, such research or testing does not require the destruction of such cat or dog and such animal is no longer needed by such research institution. A research institution that is required to offer a cat or dog for adoption pursuant to this section may enter into an agreement with an animal adoption or animal rescue organization for the purpose of complying with this subsection.(d) The commissioner of public health may make such rules and regulations, not inconsistent with this section,

necessary to carry out its purposes, and may alter, rescind or add to any rules or regulations previously made. The commissioner of public health or an agent designated by him or her shall, in connection with the granting, continuance or renewal of a license, visit and inspect the animal research and care facilities of any licensee or of any research institution which has applied for a license. The Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the Animal Rescue League of Boston may be designated as agents of the commissioner of public health. For purposes of this section the term "animal" shall refer to the dog and cat specifically and all other sentient creatures except humans.

(e) Whoever knowingly violates any of the provisions of this section shall be liable for a civil penalty of not more than \$100 for each offense. The superior court department of the trial court shall have authority to enjoin any violation of this section or to take such other actions as equity or justice may require.