

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

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Bruce J. Ayers*

*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 further increasing the fines for cruelty to animals, and establishing a fund dedicated to improvements for local animal shelters.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Bruce J. Ayers</i>	<i>1st Norfolk</i>	<i>1/21/2021</i>

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

[Pin Slip]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1758 OF 2019-2020.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court  
(2021-2022)**

An Act relative to further increasing the fines for cruelty to animals, and establishing a fund dedicated to improvements for local animal shelters.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 77 of Chapter 272 of the General Laws is hereby amended by  
2 striking out the figure “\$5,000” and inserting in place thereof the figure “\$5,500”; Section 77 is  
3 further amended by striking the figure “\$10,000” and inserting in place thereof the figure  
4 “\$11,000”

5 SECTION 2. No more than \$500 from a single fine incurred for a first offense, and no  
6 more than \$1,000 from a single fine incurred for subsequent offenses, shall be designated  
7 towards a special account in the municipality where the violation occurred.

8 The monies shall be used solely for funding improvements to the local municipality’s  
9 animal shelter. Funds designated towards municipalities without an animal shelter within their  
10 jurisdiction will be utilized at the discretion of the local municipality, providing it benefits local

- 11 groups, nonprofit organizations, or public entities dedicated to the humane treatment of animals
- 12 and/or the promotion of the adoption of shelter animals.