



OPPOSE HB378 – An Act Relative to Pet Grooming – Rep. Carlos Gonzalez (D)

Referred to Joint Committee on Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure

WHAT THIS BILL DOES:

- Establishes the definition of Pet Groomer as an individual who clips or styles a pet for financial remuneration.
- Establishes licensing requirements for anyone engaged in the act of pet grooming.
- Establishes that licensing shall be granted by the Division of Animal Health of the Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR)
- Directs the Division to establish a testing procedure for applicants.
- Directs the Division to create and maintain a record of licensees.
- Establishes an initial license fee of \$100 and subsequent biennials license renewal fees of \$100.
- Directs the Division to make yearly inspections of pet grooming facilities to ensure compliance with sections of this legislation and compliance with any additional rules/regulations promulgated by the Division.
- Requires any person making inspections to be provided training in the provisions of this section.

WHY YOU SHOULD OPPOSE THIS BILL:

This bill is a duplication of effort within already established courses for remediation and the effort is misdirected to a group who has very little knowledge of the industry and with an unreasonable timeframe.

Pet Grooming professionals are typically members of national or regional grooming associations such as Professional Pet Groomers & Stylists Alliance (PPGSA - petgroomersandstylists.org) or New England Pet Grooming Professionals (NEPGP - nepgp.com). The PPGSA was established in 2015 and developed standards of care, safety and sanitation nationally. NEPGP grew from the Massachusetts Association of Professional Dog Groomers into a regional organization in the 1980's. NEPGP offers grooming seminars as well as CPR/First Aid courses. The experienced members of these organizations currently do, and should, form the core of any certification, testing and education industry standards.

In the very rare case of a complaint against a pet groomer, existing local and state animal cruelty laws have been successfully utilized to settle disputes, along with Animal Control Officer investigations, or those of local authorities. There is no need to duplicate laws, especially when pet grooming, on a whole, is one of the most responsible of any professions.

This legislation is scheduled to become effective six months after adoption. We believe this is unreasonably tight timing for the DAR to develop and implement all the directives in this bill. The list of directives for the Division seem an inappropriate and overwhelming task based on that timeline considering the national and regional associations have established for over 30 years.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Massachusetts Federation of Dog Clubs and Responsible Dog Owners

Mrs. Julie Rembrandt Seeley; jrembrandtseeley@charter.net; 978-456-8644

2nd MF point person

06/04/21

HOUSE No. 378

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Carlos González

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 pet grooming.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Carlos González</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>	<i>2/17/2021</i>
<i>Bud L. Williams</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Marcos A. Devers</i>	<i>16th Essex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>	<i>3/2/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 378

By Mr. González of Springfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 378) of Carlos González and others relative to the regulation of pet groomers. Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to pet grooming.

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. Chapter 129 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by inserting after section 39F the following section:-

3 Section 39G. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the
4 following meanings:-

5 “Cage and Box Dryer”, a product that is attached to or near a cage or box for the purpose
6 of drying or aiding in the drying of a pet contained in a cage or box, and which is capable of
7 functioning without a person manually holding a dryer.

8 “Division”, the division of animal health of the department of agricultural resources.

9 “Pet”, any dog or cat placed in the care of a pet groomer for grooming or styling.

10 “Pet Groomer”, an individual who clips or styles a pet for financial remuneration.

11 “Pet Grooming”, clipping or styling a pet for financial remuneration.

12 “Pet Grooming Facility”, a commercial establishment where a pet may be bathed,
13 brushed, clipped, or styled.

14 (b) No person shall engage in the act of pet grooming without first obtaining a license.
15 The division shall grant pet grooming licenses.

16 (c) The division shall establish a testing procedure for applicants interested in obtaining a
17 pet grooming license. Applicants may only obtain a pet grooming license after completing said
18 test satisfactory to the standards put forth by the division.

19 (d) The division shall create and maintain a record of licensees based on information
20 obtained from applicants and the results of their testing. This record shall contain any history of
21 disciplinary action, suspension of license or revocation of license.

22 (e) The division shall issue the applicant a license as a pet groomer upon payment of an
23 initial licensure fee which shall be \$100. There shall be a subsequent biennial license renewal fee
24 of \$100.

25 (f) The division shall make yearly inspections of pet grooming facilities to ensure
26 compliance with the provisions of this section and to ensure compliance with any additional rules
27 and regulations promulgated by the division.

28 Any person making inspections shall be first provided training in the provisions of this
29 section, in the rules and regulations promulgated by the division, and the proper care of pets in
30 general.

31 (g) Upon investigation by the division, the division shall decline to grant or renew, or
32 shall suspend or revoke a pet groomer's license if they find that:

33 (i) the applicant or license holder made a false statement of a material fact in the
34 application for a license;

35 (ii) the applicant or license holder committed an act of gross negligence while pets were
36 in the license holder's care;

37 (iii) the applicant or license holder was convicted of, placed on probation for, granted a
38 continuance without a finding for or otherwise plead guilty to, admitted to a finding of sufficient
39 facts or received a dismissal upon payment of court costs for violating any provision of section
40 77 of chapter 272.

41 (h) In addition to denial, revocation, suspension or refusal of renewal of a license, as
42 otherwise provided in this section, any violation of a provision of this section is a civil offense,
43 for which a penalty of not less than \$100 nor more than \$1,000 for each violation may be
44 imposed.

45 (i) No pet groomer shall use a cage or box dryer which contains a heating element for the
46 purpose of drying or aiding in the drying of a pet.

47 (j) The division may promulgate additional rules and regulations in order to ensure the
48 safety of pets while at a pet grooming facility.

49 (k) The division may retain all license fees and fines it collects under this section to be
50 deposited in a separate fund to be administered by the division to be known as the Pet Groomer
51 Enforcement Fund. The fund shall be credited with any monies transferred under this section and

52 any monies credited or transferred to the fund from any other fund or source and shall not be
53 subject to appropriation.

54 SECTION 2. The bill shall take effect 6 months after adoption