

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

David T. Vieira

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 dangerous dogs.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>David T. Vieira</i>	<i>3rd Barnstable</i>	<i>2/17/2021</i>

HOUSE No.

[Pin Slip]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to dangerous dogs.

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 157 of chapter 140 of the General Laws, as appearing in the latest
2 official edition, is hereby amended by inserting after subsection (c) (vii) the following
3 subsection:- c (viii) that all dogs deemed as dangerous shall have a mandatory evaluation and
4 regular meetings as prescribed by a veterinary behaviorist, non-veterinary behaviorist, or a
5 veterinarian that is familiar with and uses methods that follow the position statements of the
6 American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior. Should the behaviorist/veterinarian believe
7 the dog will benefit from training, she/he will recommend a trainer who shall be credentialed by
8 either the Association of Professional Dog Trainers or the International Association of Animal
9 Behavior Consultants. The trainer will act to help implement the plan created by the
10 behaviorist/veterinarian and maintain regular communication with the associated
11 behaviorist/veterinarian. All professionals involved shall be educated in and use methods that
12 adhere to principals outlined by the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior.

13 SECTION 2. Section 157 of chapter 140 of the General Laws, as appearing in the latest
14 official edition, is hereby amended by inserting in subsection (d) after the words, “keeper of a
15 dog” the following words:- complainant /victim.

16 SECTION 3. Section 157 of chapter 140 of the General Laws, as appearing in the latest
17 official edition, is hereby amended by inserting in subsection (e) (1) after the word, “keeper” the
18 following words:- complainant /victim.

19 SECTION 4. Section 157 of chapter 140 of the General Laws, as appearing in the latest
20 official edition, is hereby amended by inserting in subsection (e) (2) after the words, “in violation
21 of this section” the following words:- , in non-compliance of veterinarian/behaviorist
22 recommendations .

23 SECTION 5. Section 157 of chapter 140 of the General Laws, as appearing in the latest
24 official edition, is hereby amended by inserting in subsection (h) after the words, “in violation of
25 an order issued under this section” the following words:- , or veterinarian/behaviorist
26 recommendations.

27 SECTION 6. Section 157A of chapter 140 of the General Laws, as appearing in the latest
28 official edition, is hereby amended by inserting in subsection (a) after the words, “an order of a
29 hearing authority” the following words:- , veterinarian/behaviorist recommendations.