

By Mr. Long of Westport, petition of John J. Long and another relative to the restraint and disposal of vicious dogs.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Nine.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE RESTRAINT AND DISPOSAL OF VICIOUS 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. The first paragraph of section 157 of chapter 140  
2 of the General Laws, as appearing in section 73 of chapter 478 of  
3 the acts of 1978, is hereby amended by inserting after the first  
4 sentence the following two sentences: — Upon certification by the  
5 chief of police that the dog has been a nuisance by reason of vicious  
6 disposition or excessive barking or other disturbance as noted in  
7 the following paragraph, the animal control officer within such  
8 town or city shall assess a levy against the keeper or owner in the  
9 amount of twenty-five dollars for each offense of necessitating an  
10 investigation. If the selectmen, chief of police, or county commis-  
11 sioners make an order that the dog be disposed, the animal control  
12 officer may seize said dog for disposal, but shall not dispose of said  
13 dog until after review of said order has been heard in the appro-  
14 priate district court, as provided in the next sentence.

1 SECTION 2. Said section 157 is hereby further amended by  
2 inserting the following sentence at the end of the second  
3 paragraph: — The provisions of this section shall not apply to any  
4 dog who has bitten or harrassed a person who was trespassing,  
5 teasing, tormenting or abusing said dog.

