By Ms. Amick, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1083) of Carol C. Amick for legislation to promote farm animal welfare. Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT TO PROMOTE FARM ANIMAL WELFARE.

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 1 of Chapter 129 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 1986 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting the following new definitions:
4 "Advisory board," the advisory board on farm animals.
5 "Commissioner," the commissioner of the department of food and agriculture.
7 "Farm animal," any animal on a farm raised to be used as food or fiber or for the production of food or fiber.

1 SECTION 2. Said Section 1 of Chapter 129 is further amended by striking the definition of "Agents" and inserting in place thereof the following:
4 "Agents," employees of the division of animal health in the department of food and agriculture specially designated as agents by the director, or persons authorized by the department to provide said services.

1 SECTION 3. Section 23 of Chapter 129 is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof the following:
4 "The director, in his capacity as a member of the advisory board on farm animals established by Section 49 of this chapter, shall transmit to said advisory board copies of any and all reports which in his opinion relate to the care of farm animals."
SECTION 4. Section 26B of chapter 129 is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof the following: —

No person shall destroy or dispose of baby chicks except by methods prescribed by the Commissioner upon the recommendation of the advisory board on farm animals established by Section 49 of this chapter.

SECTION 5. Chapter 129 is hereby further amended by adding after Section 48 the following new sections: —

Section 49. There shall be within the department a board designated as the advisory board on farm animal care. The advisory board shall consist of eleven members, including the director of the division of animal health or a designee, the director of the division of food and drugs of the department of public health or a designee, and nine members appointed by the Governor. Two members shall be doctors of veterinary medicine with experience in the care of farm animals, one of whom shall be appointed by the Governor from a list of nominees submitted by the dean of the College of Food and Natural Resources of the Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine and one of whom shall be appointed by the Governor from a list of nominees submitted by the Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association; one member shall hold an advanced degree in animal science with expertise in farm animal behavior and shall be appointed by the Governor from a list of nominees submitted by the dean of the College of Food and Natural Resources of University of Massachusetts at Amherst; three members shall be experienced in animal welfare and shall be appointed by the Governor from lists of nominees submitted by different organizations incorporated in Massachusetts for the protection and welfare of animals; one member shall represent the interests of farmers and shall be appointed by the Governor from a list of nominees submitted by the Massachusetts Farm Bureau; and two members shall be farmers whose principal vocation is the raising of farm animals and shall be appointed by the Governor from lists of nominees submitted by other farmers’ organizations incorporated in Massachusetts.

Appointed members shall serve without compensation except for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.
A majority of advisory board members currently in office shall constitute a quorum and the board may, by vote of a majority, adopt rules and regulations for the conduct of its business. The board shall biennially elect a chair from among its members. Members shall serve for terms of three years, except for four initial members who shall serve for terms of two years and three initial members who shall serve terms of one year, and except for persons appointed to fill unexpired terms who shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term. Any member shall be eligible for reappointment.

The advisory board shall meet at least four times per year, unless rules and regulations have been promulgated by the department pertaining to the care and treatment of farm animals, in which case the advisory board shall meet at least two times per year, and from time to time at the request of the chair or any two members. Meetings shall be held according to the provisions of Chapter 30A. The advisory board shall annually prepare a report of its activities which shall be filed with the commissioner and the committee on natural resources and agriculture.

The advisory board shall make a investigation and study of the care and treatment of farm animals, including but not limited to housing, sanitation, diet, veterinary care, surgical procedures such as dehorning and castration, transportation, holding at auction, slaughter and a system of inspection. In particular, the advisory board shall make an investigation and study relative to the care, comfort and treatment of any veal calf. Recommendations, which shall be accompanied by a written report, shall be made to the commissioner as necessary. Initial recommendations shall be made within one year from the effective date of this act.

The advisory board may consult with or seek assistance from individuals or organizations with expertise in animal welfare, animal biology or agriculture. The advisory board may develop and distribute educational materials for farmers relative to every aspect of the care and treatment of farm animals.

Section 50. The commissioner, upon the recommendations and advice of the advisory board, shall promulgate regulations when necessary to insure the humane care and treatment of farm animals, including but not limited to housing, sanitation, diet, veterinary care, surgical procedures which minimize pain and
Said regulations shall insure at a minimum that any veal calf is provided with quarters sufficient to allow an appropriate level of comfort and with diet that assures the maintenance of its health and welfare.

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 30A, said initial regulations shall be developed within one year following the receipt by the commissioner of the advisory board's initial report.