

HOUSE No. 1033

By Mr. Finnegan of Newburyport, petition of Kevin L. Finnegan, David M. Peters and Gale D. Candaras relative to the liability of veterinarians in the reporting of cruelty to animals. Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO VETERINARIANS REPORTING CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

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

- 1 Chapter 112 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 1996
- 2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 58A
- 3 the following new section: —
- 4 Section 58B. Any veterinarian duly registered under the provi-
- 5 sions of section 55 of the chapter, who, in good faith, and in the
- 6 normal course of business, reports suspected cases of cruelty to
- 7 animals as defined under section 77 or section 94 of chapter 272
- 8 of the General Laws to any police officer, or any special state
- 9 police officer appointed under the provisions of section 57 of
- 10 chapter 22C of the General Laws, shall not be liable for damages
- 11 in any civil or criminal action for such reporting.

