

By Mr. Sciortino of Medford, petition of Carl M. Sciortino, Jr., and others for legislation to prohibit commercial dog racing in the Commonwealth. Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.
William N. Brownsberger
Denise Provost
Kay Khan
Frank I. Smizik
David Paul Linsky

Todd M. Smola
Cheryl A. Coakley-Rivera
Michael E. Festa
Pamela P. Resor
Cory Atkins
Susan C. Tucker

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT TO PROTECT 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. Chapter 128A of the General Laws is hereby
- 2 amended by adding after section 14D the following section:—
- 3 Section 14E. Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter or
- 4 any general or specific law to the contrary, no commercial dog
- 5 racing shall be conducted or permitted in this commonwealth and
- 6 the commission is hereby prohibited from accepting or approving
- 7 any application or request for racing dates for live dog racing. For
- 8 the purposes of the section, “commercial dog racing” refers to a
- 9 racing meeting where any form of betting or wagering on the speed
- 10 or ability of dogs occurs.
- 11 Any person violating any provision of this section relative to dog
- 12 racing shall be subject to civil penalty of not less than twenty thou-
- 13 sand dollars which shall be payable for to the commission and used
- 14 for administrative purposes of the commission subject to appropria-
- 15 tion.

16 All other provisions of this Chapter shall be construed as if they
17 contain no references to dogs, dog racing or dog races.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 10 of the General Laws is hereby amended
2 by inserting after section 69 the following section:—

3 Section 70. There shall be established and set up on the books of
4 the commonwealth a separate fund known as the Greyhound
5 Workers' Re-Training and Support Fund which shall not be subject
6 to further appropriation. Through May 31, 2009, all monies gener-
7 ated by the Greyhound Promotional Trust Fund and the Greyhound
8 Capital Improvements Trust Fund established pursuant to section
9 12A of chapter 494 of the acts of 1978 shall fund the Greyhound
10 Workers' Re-training and Support Fund under the direction and
11 supervision of the state racing commissioners.

12 The state treasurer, ex officio, shall be the custodian of the trust
13 fund and shall receive, deposit and invest all monies received (1)
14 under the provisions of section 5 of chapter 128A; (2) from public
15 and private sources as gifts, grants and donations to further assist
16 displaced commercial dog track workers; and (3) in interest earned
17 by the fund. Any amount of the fund unexpended as of December
18 31, 2009 shall be deposited in the General Fund.

1 SECTION 3. Chapter 128C of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by striking in all instances the words "a sum equal to 0.25
3 per cent of the total amount wagered shall be paid to the Greyhound
4 Promotional Trust Fund" and "a sum equal to 0.25 per cent of the
5 total amount wagered shall be paid to Greyhound Capital Improve-
6 ments Trust Fund" and inserting in place thereof, "a sum equal to
7 0.25 per cent of the total amount wagered shall be paid to the Grey-
8 hound Workers' Re-training and Support Fund".

1 SECTION 4. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the
2 contrary, the effective date of Section 1 of this Act shall be June 1,
3 2009.