

HOUSE No. 2209

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>2/18/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 2209

By Mr. Vieira of Falmouth, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2209) of David T. Vieira relative to orders for remedial action for certain nuisance and dangerous dogs. Municipalities and Regional Government.

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.

2 Section 157 of chapter 140 of the General Laws, as appearing in the latest official edition,
3 is hereby amended by inserting after subsection (c) (vii) the following subsection:- c (viii) that
4 all dogs deemed as dangerous shall have a mandatory evaluation and regular meetings as
5 prescribed by a Diplomate of the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior, non-
6 veterinary Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist, or a veterinarian that is familiar with and uses
7 methods that follow the position statements of the American Veterinary Society of Animal
8 Behavior. Should the behaviorist/veterinarian believe the dog will benefit from training, she/he
9 will recommend a trainer. 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. Recommended trainers must exclusively employ evidence-based
12 training techniques that do not result in pain, discomfort, fear, or anxiety. Electronic, prong, or

13 choke collars must not be used. All professionals involved shall be educated in and use methods
14 that adhere to principals outlined by the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior.

15 SECTION 2.

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

19 SECTION 3.

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

23 SECTION 4.

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

27 SECTION 5.

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

31 SECTION 6.

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