

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 753**

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Stephen Kulik*

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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act to promote the care and well-being of livestock.

PETITION OF:

| NAME:                      | DISTRICT/ADDRESS:                |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>Stephen Kulik</i>       | <i>1st Franklin</i>              |
| <i>Sarah K. Peake</i>      | <i>4th Barnstable</i>            |
| <i>Peter V. Kocot</i>      | <i>1st Hampshire</i>             |
| <i>Denise Andrews</i>      | <i>2nd Franklin</i>              |
| <i>Anne M. Gobi</i>        | <i>5th Worcester</i>             |
| <i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>   | <i>21st Middlesex</i>            |
| <i>Kate Hogan</i>          | <i>3rd Middlesex</i>             |
| <i>Kay Khan</i>            | <i>11th Middlesex</i>            |
| <i>Rhonda Nyman</i>        | <i>5th Plymouth</i>              |
| <i>Paul A. Schmid, III</i> | <i>8th Bristol</i>               |
| <i>John W. Scibak</i>      | <i>2nd Hampshire</i>             |
| <i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>       | <i>First Essex and Middlesex</i> |

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 753**

By Mr. Kulik of Worthington, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 753) of Stephen Kulik and others for legislation to direct the Commissioner of Agricultural Resources to establish a livestock care and standards board to ensure the humane keeping and treatment of livestock. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen**

An Act to promote the care and well-being of livestock.

*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 128 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008 official edition,  
2 is hereby amended by inserting the following new sections:-

3 Section AA. The Commissioner shall establish a Livestock Care and Standards Board  
4 consisting of 11 members, of which the Commissioner, or his designee, shall be a member and  
5 chair. Additional members shall include: a representative of the Massachusetts Veterinary  
6 Medicine Association, appointed by the Board of Directors of that organization, who is  
7 experienced in the care and keeping of livestock; a large animal veterinarian, appointed by the  
8 Governor, who is experienced in the care and keeping of livestock,; a representative of the  
9 Department of Public Health, assigned by the Commissioner of Public Health, who is  
10 knowledgeable in the areas of zoonotic disease and food safety; a representative of a  
11 Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; a representative of the Animal  
12 Rescue League of Boston; a representative of the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation; a  
13 representative of the Massachusetts chapter of the Northeast Organic Farming Association;  
14 representative of a family farm involved in the raising of poultry, appointed by the  
15 Commissioner; and two representatives of a family farms involved in the rearing of cows, swine,  
16 goats, sheep and/or horses, appointed by the Commissioner.

17 Members shall serve a term of three years, and shall remain eligible for reappointment at  
18 the end of terms served. The purpose of the Board shall be to advise the Commissioner on  
19 appropriate actions to be taken by the Commissioner to help ensure the humane keeping and

20 treatment of livestock, and the viability of farms and related businesses involved in the rearing  
21 and keeping of livestock.

22           Section BB. The Commissioner may promulgate regulations and/or voluntary standards  
23 governing the care and well-being of cattle, swine, poultry, and other livestock; provided  
24 however that such regulations and standards are approved by a minimum of a two-thirds vote of  
25 the Livestock Care Board. Factors to be considered in the promulgation of these standards shall  
26 include but not be limited to: the health, safety, comfort of animals; food safety; biosecurity,  
27 animal health and public health; and the financial impact/viability of farms and related  
28 businesses impacted by said standards.

29           Section CC. Upon establishment, at the first official meeting thereof, the Commission  
30 shall examine practices relating to battery cage hen operations, swine gestation crates and veal  
31 crates and determine appropriate actions to undertake. The Commission shall examine whether  
32 bans, regulations, guidelines or other measures, if any, are necessary or appropriate relative to  
33 such practices within the Commonwealth. Subsequent to addressing these two topics, the  
34 Commission shall examine additional practices and topics at the request of any two members.  
35 All meeting shall occur in accordance with state open public meeting requirements and efforts  
36 shall be made to ensure meetings are held at a variety of geographic locations throughout the  
37 state.