

SENATE No. 02047

Senate, Thursday, October 27, 2011 – New draft of Senate, No. 335 reported from the committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

—————
In the Year Two Thousand Eleven
—————

An Act to promote the care and wellbeing 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, and who is also a member of
9 the MSPCA; a representative of the Department of Public Health, assigned by the Commissioner
10 of Public Health, who is knowledgeable in the areas of zoonotic disease and food safety; a
11 representative of a Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; a
12 representative of the Animal Rescue League of Boston; a representative of the Massachusetts

13 Farm Bureau Federation; a representative of the Massachusetts chapter of the Northeast Organic
14 Farming Association; representative of a family farm involved in the raising of poultry,
15 appointed by the Commissioner; and two representatives of a family farms involved in the
16 rearing of cows, swine, 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 swine gestation crates and veal crates and determine
31 appropriate actions to undertake. The Commission shall examine whether bans, regulations,
32 guidelines or other measures, if any, are necessary or appropriate relative to such practices within
33 the Commonwealth. Subsequent to addressing these two topics, the Commission shall examine
34 additional practices and topics at the request of any two members. All meeting shall occur in

35 accordance with state open public meeting requirements and efforts shall be made to ensure
36 meetings are held at a variety of geographic locations throughout the state.