

SENATE No. 590

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

John C. Velis

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 prohibiting the sale of fur products.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>John C. Velis</i>	<i>Hampden and Hampshire</i>	
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/20/2023</i>
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/28/2023</i>
<i>Steven George Xiarhos</i>	<i>5th Barnstable</i>	<i>2/28/2023</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/28/2023</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>2/28/2023</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>First Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>3/3/2023</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>	<i>3/3/2023</i>

SENATE No. 590

By Mr. Velis, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 590) of John C. Velis, Jack Patrick Lewis, Vanna Howard, Steven George Xiarhos and other members of the General Court for legislation to prohibit the sale of fur products. Environment and Natural Resources.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act prohibiting the sale of fur products.

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. New Chapter 110I to Title XV Regulation of Trade of the General Laws is
2 hereby added:

3 Chapter 110I: Trade of Fur Products

4 § 1. Terms defined

5 For the purposes of this chapter the following terms have the following meanings

6 (a) “Fur”, any animal skin or part thereof with hair, fleece, or fur fibers attached thereto,
7 either in its raw or processed state.

8 (b) (1) “Fur product”, any article of clothing or covering for any part of the body, or any
9 fashion accessory, including, but not limited to, handbags, shoes, slippers, hats, earmuffs,
10 scarves, shawls, gloves, jewelry, keychains, toys, and home accessories and décor, that is made
11 in whole or part of fur.

12 (2) “Fur product” does not include any of the following:

13 (i) An animal skin or part thereof that is to be converted into leather, or which in
14 processing will have the hair, fleece, or fur fiber completely removed;

15 (ii) Cowhide with the hair attached thereto;

16 (iii) Lambskin or sheepskin with the fleece attached thereto; or

17 (iv) The pelt or skin of any animal that is preserved through taxidermy or for the purpose
18 of taxidermy.

19 (c) “Non-profit organization”, any corporation that is organized under 26 U.S.C. §
20 501(c)(3) that is created for charitable, religious, philanthropic, educational, or similar purposes.

21 (d) “Taxidermy”, the practice of preparing and preserving the skin of an animal that is
22 deceased and stuffing and mounting it in a lifelike form.

23 (e) “Ultimate consumer”, an individual who buys a fur product for their own use, or the
24 use of another, but not for resale or trade.

25 (f) “Used fur product”, a fur product that has been worn or used by an ultimate consumer.

26 § 2. Fur Product Prohibition; exemptions; penalties

27 (a) Notwithstanding M.G.L.A. 266 § 79 or any other provision of law, it is unlawful to
28 sell, offer for sale, display for sale, trade, or otherwise distribute for monetary or nonmonetary
29 consideration a fur product in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. For purposes of this section,
30 the sale of a fur product shall be deemed to occur in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts if: (1)

31 the buyer takes physical possession of the fur product in Massachusetts; or (2) the seller is
32 located in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

33 (b) The prohibitions outlined in this Section do not apply to the sale, offer for sale,
34 displaying for sale, trade, or distribution of:

35 (1) a used fur product by an individual (excluding a retail transaction), non-profit
36 organization, or second-hand store, including a pawn shop;

37 (2) a fur product used for traditional tribal, cultural, or spiritual purposes by a member of
38 a federally recognized or state-recognized Native American tribe; or

39 (3) a fur product where the activity is expressly authorized by federal or state law.

40 (c) A person convicted of a violation of this Chapter shall be fined no less than five
41 hundred dollars nor more than five thousand dollars per fur product.

42 SECTION 2. Severability.

43 If any section, subsection, or paragraph of this Act shall be held unconstitutional either on
44 its face or as applied, the unconstitutionality of the section, subsection, or paragraph, or of the
45 application thereof, shall not affect the other sections, subsections, and paragraphs of this Act,
46 and the applications thereof; and to that end the sections, subsections, and paragraphs of this Act
47 are intended to be severable.

48 SECTION 3. Effective date.

49 This Act shall take effect no later than 180 days following the passage of this Act.