

To Chairwoman Carol Hagan McEntee
House Committee on Judiciary,

From Devan Massie

03/26/2026

In support of House bill no. 7562, 7487 and 7545

Dear Chairwoman McEntee and members of the committee, my name is Devan Massie of Pawtucket, RI. I am reaching out to you to show support and highlight the need for bill 7562, which will help animal control officers more effectively help animals in circumstances of blatant abuse and neglect. As well as bills 7487 and 7545 that help raise negligible penalties and fines related to animal abuse and wrongful death.

As an animal lover and advocate, and someone who interacts with many others in our community, I've seen how the outdated laws and lack of legal resources for ACO's to step in have impacted community members, innocent animals and the ACO's as well. These bills are a positive thing for everyone. It will help these animals get into loving, caring homes sooner and reduce the chance they get returned to a negligent, abusive owner. As well as create fines and penalties that may even help deter some of these instances from happening, but at the very least will more appropriately fit the crimes than with the current penalties. Nothing is worse than having to ignore things that seem like common sense due to legal technicalities, that then result in the suffering of an animal as well as the guilt in being bound from doing all you can to help them. I have seen dogs stay in shelters for months at a time, unadoptable legally, due to abusive owners who choose not to relinquish ownership. These bills, primarily 7562, helps prevent that from continuing, or at the very least it minimizes it and saves more time for the animals to enjoy their lives out of a shelter, as well as a bad home.

When it comes to the laws regarding animals, there is a lot that needs to be done but this is a great step in the proper direction to do right by our animal companions. I respectfully ask that the committee vote in favor of bills 7562, 7487 and 7545 and I thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Devan Massie

Friends of Pawtucket Animal Shelter