

Roberta DiMezza

From: Katarina Ezikovich <kezikovich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2026 12:07 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Written support for H7562, H7487, and H7545

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

To whom it may concern,
I am writing in support of Bills H7562, H7487, and H7545

Reverance for the sanctity of an animals life and wellbeing is unfortunately not inherent to all. Empathy and humane treatment is not universal valued by those in custody of animals. What is often valued by said abusers and neglectors is their own wellbeing, in a twist of irony lost on them. If increasing the fines for Cruelty, abuse, and neglect is the only way for those violators to understand the consequence of their actions, then so be it. They are in control of their actions, and the circumstances their animals are subject to, the animal in question is not. Animals have no agency or ability to advocate for themselves. They are the recipients of an often cruel game of lottery, of who will steward their care. If that human is not humane for the sake of goodwill, they will have to become humane for the sake of their wallet. In regards to H7562, increasing the authority of Animal Control Officers to take custody of animals, and for funds to be reimbursed to the city/town that provides care, these are issues which require your fill support. Beyond the obvious moral obligation of your position to support this legislation, it has logical and economic advantages as well.

A 2024 study found that some of the biggest challenges facing animal welfare was 1.) The authority, training, and jurisdiction of Animal Control Officers and adjacent personnel to act in a timely and meaningful manner and 2.) Facilities and resource availability for animals in need of care. This bill can help to address both those issues.

(Niemiec, Rebecca, and Lori R. Kogan. "Animal abuse investigations: Challenges and recommendations to improve animal and human welfare." *Animals*, vol. 14, no. 24, 13 Dec. 2024, p. 3602

<https://doi.org/10.3390/ani14243602>

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11672660/>)

I urge you to vote in favor of these bills, to do right by both Rhode Island animals, and those who love and care for them.

Thank you for your consideration,
Katarina Ezikovich