

TOWN OF BARRINGTON, RHODE ISLAND

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO AMEND
STATE LAW BY ALLOWING THE TOWN OF BARRINGTON TO INCREASE THE
FEE FOR DOG LICENSING**

WHEREAS, Section 4-13-4(a)(2) of the Rhode Island General Laws provides that the fee for a dog license shall be five dollars (\$5.00); and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly has previously authorized several municipalities to charge dog licensing fees in excess of five dollars; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Barrington desires to increase the fee for a dog license to seven dollars (\$7.00), with the increase in licensing fees to be allocated to the disposal of waste from the Town Dog Park;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

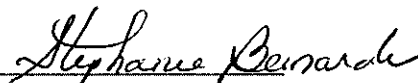
1. The Barrington Town Council hereby petitions the Rhode Island General Assembly to enact the legislation attached hereto during the 2026 session of the General Assembly, allowing the Town of Barrington to charge a fee of seven dollars (\$7.00) for a dog license; and
2. A copy of this resolution shall be delivered to the Town's delegation in the General Assembly.

ATTEST:

Adopted January 5, 2026, by the Barrington Town Council



Braxton Cloutier,
Barrington Town Council President



Stephanie Bernardo, CMC
Town Clerk

2026 –

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

AN ACT

RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Introduced By:
Date Introduced:
Referred To:

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 4-13-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 4-13 entitled “Dogs” is
2 hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **4-13-4. Dog licenses -- Fees -- Penalties.** -- (a) (1) Every owner or keeper of a dog shall
4 annually, in April, obtain a license effective May 1 through the office of the city or town clerk
5 of the city or town in which the owner or keeper resides.

6 (2) The fees for the license shall be five dollars (\$5.00).

7 (3) No city or town shall issue any license under this section unless the dog has been
8 inoculated against rabies for the period of time which the license would be valid.

9 (4) All licenses issued under the provisions of this chapter shall be valid in every city or
10 town during the then current year.

11 (5) Any person who becomes the owner or keeper of a dog shall obtain a license within
12 thirty (30) days after he or she becomes the owner or keeper.

1 (6) (i) The Cumberland town clerk may issue a license renewable every two (2) years for
2 a licensing fee of six dollars (\$6.00).

3 (ii) Gloucester town council may provide for an annual licensing fee of fourteen dollars
4 (\$14.00) for all dogs, except spayed or neutered females and males, and for an annual licensing
5 fee of seven dollars (\$7.00) for spayed or neutered female and male dogs.

6 (iii) Jamestown town council may provide, by ordinance, for an annual licensing fee not
7 to exceed fifteen dollars (\$15.00) for neutered dogs, and not to exceed twenty-five dollars
8 (\$25.00) for unneutered dogs.

9 (iv) Newport city council may, however, provide, by ordinance, for an annual licensing
10 fee of not more than ten dollars (\$10.00) for all spayed and neutered dogs, and for an annual
11 licensing fee of not more than fifteen dollars (\$15.00) for unspayed females and unneutered
12 males.

13 (v) North Smithfield town council may provide, by ordinance, for an annual licensing fee
14 of five dollars (\$5.00) for all dogs.

15 (vi) (A) South Kingstown town council may provide for an annual licensing fee of
16 twelve dollars (\$12.00) for all dogs, except spayed or neutered females and male dogs, and for an
17 annual licensing fee of seven dollars (\$7.00) for spayed or neutered female and male dogs.

18 (B) The South Kingstown town council may assess an impound fee.

19 (vii) (A) Westerly town council may provide, by ordinance, for an annual license fee of
20 ten dollars (\$10.00) for unspayed female dogs and unneutered male dogs;

21 (B) May provide for a fee of one dollar (\$1.00) for the replacement of lost dog tags;

22 (C) May provide that no fee be charged to license guide dogs used by persons with
23 disabilities;

24 (D) May provide for the number of licensed dogs which may be kept at any single-

1 family residence, other than a breeding kennel; and

2 (E) May provide for pecuniary penalties not exceeding twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for
3 violations.

4 (viii) Woonsocket city council may provide, by ordinance, for an annual licensing fee of
5 five dollars (\$5.00) for all dogs.

6 (ix) (A) West Warwick town council may provide, by ordinance, for an annual license
7 fee of seven dollars (\$7.00) for each neutered male or spayed female and fifteen dollars (\$15.00)
8 for each unneutered male and unspayed female.

9 (B) May provide, by ordinance, for a payment of a two dollars (\$2.00) fee for duplicate
10 or for replacement tags.

11 (x) (A) Pawtucket city council may provide, by ordinance, for an annual licensing fee
12 not to exceed fifteen dollars (\$15.00) for spayed or neutered dogs, and not to exceed twenty-five
13 dollars (\$25.00) for unspayed or unneutered dogs.

14 (B) May provide, by ordinance, for an annual licensing fee for dogs owned by residents
15 age 65 or older not to exceed five dollars (\$5.00) for spayed or neutered dogs, and not to exceed
16 ten dollars (\$10.00) for unspayed or unneutered dogs.

17 (xi) Scituate town council may provide, by ordinance, for an annual license fee not to
18 exceed twenty (\$20.00) dollars for all dogs.

19 (xii) Burrillville town council may:

20 (A) Provide, by ordinance, for an annual licensing fee of not more than ten dollars
21 (\$10.00) for all dogs; and

22 (B) Provide for pecuniary penalties not exceeding twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for
23 violations.

24 (xiii) The Middletown town council may:

1 (A) Provide, by ordinance, for an annual licensing fee not to exceed twenty-five dollars
2 (\$25.00) per dog.

3 (xiv) Foster town council may:

4 (A) Provide, by ordinance, for an annual or biennial licensing fee not to exceed fifteen
5 dollars (\$15.00) for all dogs; and

6 (B) Provide for pecuniary damages not exceeding twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for
7 violations.

8 (xv) The Barrington Town Council may provide, by ordinance, for an annual licensing
9 fee of not more than seven dollars (\$7.00) per dog.

10 (b) Every person, owning or keeping a dog not licensed and/or collared according to the
11 provisions of this chapter, shall be fined ten dollars (\$10.00) to be applied to the support of the
12 city or town, and that fine shall be in addition to all other lawful fees.

13 (c) Any city or town may waive the fee to be charged to license guide dogs used by
14 persons with disabilities.

15 (d) In the city of Woonsocket, every person owning or keeping a dog not licensed and/or
16 collared according to the provisions of this chapter shall be fined fifty dollars (\$50.00) for the
17 first offense,, one hundred dollars (\$100) for the second offense; and one hundred fifty dollars
18 (\$150) for the third and subsequent offenses.

19 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
AN ACT
RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

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1 This act would authorize the Town of Barrington to provide for an annual dog licensing
2 fee of seven dollars (\$7.00) by ordinance.

3 This act would take effect upon passage.