

**SENATE . . . . . No.**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

**Mr. Panagiotakos (BY REQUEST)**

*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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to Rabies vaccinations for dogs and cats.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Joann Camilli

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

778 Hildreth Street  
Dracut, MA 01826

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand and Nine  
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## AN ACT RELATIVE TO RABIES VACCINATIONS FOR DOGS AND CATS.

*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. Section 145B of Chapter 140 of the Massachusetts General Laws is hereby amended by  
2 inserting after the first paragraph the following:

3 Said owner may be exempted from the requirement of vaccination for one year if a valid letter of  
4 exemption is presented. A letter of exemption may be given if a medical reason exists that precludes  
5 the vaccination of the dog or cat. Qualifying letters must be in the form of a written statement, signed  
6 by a licensed veterinarian, that includes a description of the animal, and the medical reason that  
7 precludes vaccination. If the medical reason is temporary, the letter shall indicate a time of expiration  
8 of the exemption.

9 SECTION 2. Said section 145B of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by  
10 striking out the third paragraph and inserting the following paragraph:

11 In order for a dog or cat to be accepted at an animal hospital, veterinarian's office or boarding facility an  
12 owner or keeper of such animal shall show proof of current vaccination against rabies or a valid  
13 exemption letter; provided however, that if a dog or cat has not been so vaccinated or such owner or  
14 keeper fails to show such proof of vaccination or exemption the animal shall be vaccinated against  
15 rabies prior to being discharged if the animal's medical condition permits.