



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 6611**

January Session, 2023



**AN ACT CONCERNING ON-LINE DOG LICENSES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 22-338 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective June 1, 2024*):

3 (a) Each owner or keeper of a dog of the age of six months or older,  
4 except dogs kept under a kennel license as provided in section 22-342,  
5 shall cause such dog to be licensed in the town clerk's office in the town  
6 where such dog is kept [ , on] or, in the alternative, electronically with  
7 the Department of Agriculture, on or before June thirtieth, annually, or  
8 at such time as such dog becomes six months old, and annually  
9 thereafter, on or before June thirtieth. The owner or keeper shall pay to  
10 such town clerk or the Department of Agriculture for such annual  
11 license the sum of [seven] fifteen dollars for each [neutered male or  
12 spayed female] dog [and the sum of twelve dollars for each unneutered  
13 male dog and each unspayed female dog,] and, as applicable, one  
14 additional dollar [in each case as] for the town clerk's fee for issuing a  
15 tag and license as provided in section 22-340, as amended by this act.  
16 [Two dollars from] Twenty-five per cent of each license fee collected for  
17 a [neutered or spayed] dog shall be deposited into the animal  
18 population control account, established under section 22-380g. If an

19 owner or keeper of a dog fails to procure a license as required by this  
20 section, such owner or keeper shall pay the appropriate license fee  
21 specified in this section, the town clerk's fee, as applicable, and a penalty  
22 of one dollar for each month or fraction thereof the dog remains  
23 unlicensed.

24 (b) Any owner or keeper applying for a license for a dog under  
25 subsection (a) of this section, except for those owners or keepers  
26 possessing a rabies vaccination exemption certificate, or a copy thereof,  
27 issued pursuant to section 22-339b, shall submit to the town clerk or the  
28 Department of Agriculture, as applicable, a rabies certificate signed by  
29 a licensed veterinarian, or a copy thereof, stating that such dog has been  
30 vaccinated against rabies, the date of the vaccination and the duration  
31 of the immunity provided by the vaccine. No license shall be issued  
32 unless the certificate indicates that the immunity provided by the  
33 vaccine is effective at the time of licensing.

34 (c) Any owner or keeper applying for a license for a dog pursuant to  
35 subsection (a) of this section that has been exempted from vaccination  
36 against rabies pursuant to section 22-339b shall submit to the town clerk  
37 or the Department of Agriculture, as applicable, a rabies vaccination  
38 exemption certificate issued by the department, or a copy thereof, in lieu  
39 of a rabies certificate.

40 (d) This section shall not apply to any dog which is imported into this  
41 state for exhibition purposes and which does not remain in this state for  
42 more than thirty days. Any person may import, from another state, any  
43 licensed dog with collar, tag and rabies vaccination certificate, and keep  
44 the same in this state for not more than thirty days, without complying  
45 with the provisions of this section.

46 Sec. 2. Section 22-339 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
47 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective June 1, 2024*):

48 Any person upon becoming the owner or keeper of any unlicensed  
49 dog of the age of six months or older shall cause such dog to be licensed

50 within thirty days thereof until the thirtieth day of the ensuing June in  
51 the manner and subject to the terms and conditions provided in section  
52 22-338, as amended by this act. If the new owner has written proof of  
53 purchase or transfer and the license is obtained within thirty days, [he]  
54 such new owner shall not be required to pay any penalties as provided  
55 by said section for failure to secure a license for a dog over six months  
56 of age. Any person becoming the owner of a licensed dog shall present  
57 the license and tag of such dog to the town clerk of the town in which  
58 [he] such person resides and, for a fee of one dollar, such town clerk  
59 shall issue, in lieu thereof, a new license and tag, which shall be recorded  
60 in the name of the new owner. Such town clerk shall retain the old  
61 license and tag. [in his possession.]

62 Sec. 3. Section 22-339a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
63 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective June 1, 2024*):

64 (a) The town clerk of any town and the Commissioner of Agriculture,  
65 as applicable, may individually or jointly deputize any employees of  
66 any dog pound in such town as agents for the issuance of dog licenses  
67 and tags, provided the town clerk shall be solely responsible for  
68 compliance with the provisions of the statutes relating to the duties of  
69 the town clerk in connection with such licenses and tags and the moneys  
70 received therefor.

71 (b) Any person acquiring an unlicensed dog from a dog pound shall  
72 be issued a temporary license by the town clerk or the Department of  
73 Agriculture, as applicable, or [his] the town clerk's or department's  
74 agent deputized pursuant to subsection (a) of this section which shall  
75 expire thirty days after the issuance thereof. Prior to the expiration of a  
76 temporary license, the person holding the license shall apply for a  
77 license for the remainder of the license year, pay the appropriate license  
78 fee specified in section 22-338, as amended by this act, and submit a  
79 certificate signed by a veterinarian, or a copy or electronic copy, as  
80 applicable, thereof, stating (1) that the dog has been vaccinated against  
81 rabies, (2) the date of the vaccination and (3) the duration of the  
82 immunity provided by the vaccine. No license shall be issued unless the

83 certificate indicates that the immunity provided by the vaccine is  
84 effective at the time of licensing.

85 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 22-339c of the general statutes is  
86 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective June 1,*  
87 *2024*):

88 (a) A certificate of rabies vaccination shall be (1) a form approved by  
89 the National Association of Public Health Veterinarians, (2) any form  
90 approved by the State Veterinarian, or (3) any form that has the  
91 following information regarding the vaccinated animal: (A) The name  
92 and address of its owner; (B) a description of the animal which specifies  
93 its species, breed, age, color or markings and sex; (C) the date of the  
94 vaccination, the duration of the immunity provided by the vaccination,  
95 the producer of the vaccine and the vaccine serial number; (D) the rabies  
96 tag number; and (E) the signature and license number of the  
97 veterinarian administering the vaccination. Such certificate shall be the  
98 official proof of rabies vaccination submitted to a town clerk or the  
99 Department of Agriculture, as applicable, in accordance with the  
100 provisions of section 22-338, as amended by this act, or 22-339a, as  
101 amended by this act.

102 Sec. 5. Section 22-340 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
103 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective June 1, 2024*):

104 (a) Each person complying with the provisions of section 22-338, as  
105 amended by this act, 22-339, as amended by this act, or 22-342 shall  
106 receive from the town clerk or the Department of Agriculture, as  
107 applicable, a license on a form prescribed by the commissioner, which  
108 license shall contain a description of the dog and the number under  
109 which such dog is licensed. The town clerk or the Department of  
110 Agriculture, as applicable, shall issue to such person a tag or plate of  
111 material prescribed by the commissioner, upon which shall be distinctly  
112 marked [the name of the town in which such dog is licensed,] the license  
113 number and the year of license. [No town clerk shall issue such license  
114 or tag to any person for any neutered male or spayed female dog not

115 previously licensed as such unless the person causing the dog to be  
116 licensed exhibits to the town clerk a certificate from a licensed  
117 veterinarian stating that such veterinarian has neutered or spayed the  
118 dog or that, after examining the dog, he finds that the dog has been  
119 neutered or spayed.]

120 (b) The town clerk shall provide for the issuance and renewal through  
121 the mail of licenses issued under sections 22-338, as amended by this act,  
122 and 22-339, as amended by this act. The [town clerk] Department of  
123 Agriculture shall provide for the electronic issuance and renewal of  
124 licenses issued by the department pursuant to sections 22-338, as  
125 amended by this act, and 22-339, as amended by this act, and may make  
126 information concerning the department's electronic dog licensing  
127 system and applications for such licenses available at such facilities as  
128 kennels, pet stores, veterinarian offices, humane society offices and pet  
129 grooming establishments.

130 Sec. 6. Section 22-341 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
131 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective June 1, 2024*):

132 (a) Each owner or keeper of a licensed dog shall keep around its neck  
133 or body a collar or harness of leather or other suitable material, to which  
134 shall be securely attached a tag or plate issued to such person by the  
135 town clerk or the Department of Agriculture, as applicable. If any such  
136 tag or plate is lost, the owner or keeper of such dog shall forthwith  
137 secure a substitute tag or plate from the town clerk or the Department  
138 of Agriculture, as applicable, at a cost of [fifty cents] one dollar.

139 (b) The town clerk of each town shall order a sufficient number of  
140 such tags or plates from the commissioner, who shall furnish the same  
141 at a cost of five cents each, which cost shall be paid by the town on the  
142 approval of the town clerk. Any balance of the moneys received by the  
143 commissioner after deducting the cost of the tags, the expenses  
144 incidental to their distribution to the town clerks and the expenses  
145 incidental to the enforcement of the provisions of this chapter, shall be  
146 accounted for by the commissioner to the Comptroller. The design and

147 the shape of such tags or plates shall be changed each year, and such  
148 tags or plates for each year shall be of uniform design and material  
149 throughout the state. Any dog found roaming at large upon any public  
150 highway or common or upon the premises of any person other than its  
151 owner, without a tag as provided in this section, shall be presumed to  
152 be an unlicensed dog.

153 Sec. 7. Section 22-345 of the general statutes, as amended by section 5  
154 of public act 22-54, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
155 thereof (*Effective June 1, 2024*):

156 Any person with a disability who is the owner or keeper of a dog  
157 which has been trained as a service animal, is in training to become a  
158 service animal for such person, is in training to become a service animal  
159 or is enrolled in a program described in section 17a-22ee shall receive a  
160 license and tag for such dog from the town clerk of the town where such  
161 dog is owned or kept or, electronically, from the Department of  
162 Agriculture. Such license and tag shall be issued in accordance with the  
163 provisions of section 22-340, as amended by this act, and no fee shall be  
164 required of the owner or keeper of any such dog. [When any such dog  
165 has not been previously licensed, by the town clerk to whom application  
166 is being made and it is not obvious that the dog is a service animal, such  
167 town clerk may inquire of such owner or keeper whether the dog is a  
168 service animal required because of a disability and what work or task  
169 the dog has been trained to perform.] Any person who has a dog placed  
170 with such person temporarily, including for breeding purposes, by a  
171 nonprofit organization established for the purpose of training or  
172 educating the dog as a service animal shall receive a license and tag for  
173 such dog from the town clerk of the town where such dog is kept or the  
174 Department of Agriculture, as applicable. Such license and tag shall be  
175 issued in accordance with the provisions of section 22-340, as amended  
176 by this act, and no fee shall be required for such license and tag,  
177 provided such person [presents confirmation] confirms that such dog  
178 was placed with such person by such organization. As used in this  
179 section, (1) "disability" means any one or more of the following, as

180 defined in section 46a-51: (A) An intellectual disability, (B) physically  
181 disabled, (C) a mental disability, or (D) a learning disability; and (2)  
182 "service animal" has the same meaning as provided in 28 CFR 35.104, as  
183 amended from time to time, and includes a service animal in training.

184 Sec. 8. Section 22-347 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
185 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective June 1, 2024*):

186 (a) Within thirty days after receipt of the fees for dog licenses and  
187 tags, each town clerk shall deduct one dollar for each dog licensed, two  
188 dollars for each kennel license issued and fifty cents for each  
189 replacement tag issued and pay the balance to the town treasurer or  
190 other proper fiscal officer. Each town treasurer or fiscal officer, as the  
191 case may be, shall keep a separate dog fund account of all fees received  
192 from the town clerk, and all receipts from the municipal animal control  
193 officer and expended by said officer under the provisions of this chapter,  
194 and shall pay to the Commissioner of Agriculture, on September first of  
195 each year, fifty per cent of all moneys received from the sale of licenses  
196 prior to July first, or forty per cent of all such moneys if the town has  
197 made a survey of unlicensed dogs in accordance with the provisions of  
198 section 22-349, as amended by this act, and include with such payment  
199 a statement of the number of licenses issued during such year. All  
200 moneys received from licenses sold after June thirtieth and all moneys  
201 received from the municipal animal control officer [and all license fees  
202 returned to the town by the State Treasurer, at the request of the  
203 commissioner, under the provisions of section 22-348] shall be kept by  
204 the town treasurer or other fiscal officer in the separate dog fund  
205 account. The town treasurer or other fiscal officer shall, on the ensuing  
206 September first, send fifty per cent, or forty per cent as the case may be,  
207 of all license fees in such account to the commissioner, including any  
208 penalty fees collected pursuant to section 22-338, as amended by this act.  
209 All payments to the commissioner shall be accompanied by an account  
210 thereof in a form prescribed by the commissioner and a copy of such  
211 account shall be sent to the commissioner. Upon the failure of any town  
212 treasurer or other fiscal officer to pay any amount due pursuant to this

213 section, or any portion thereof, within forty-five days from its due date,  
214 the commissioner shall add interest of one and one-fourth per cent per  
215 month or fraction thereof on the amount unpaid per month or fraction  
216 thereof from the due date of such payment to the date of payment and  
217 a penalty in the amount of ten per cent of the amount unpaid or fifty  
218 dollars, whichever is greater. All funds in the dog fund account, except  
219 such funds as are to be sent to the commissioner, shall be used only for  
220 the compensation of municipal animal control officers, license  
221 certificates, tags, the construction and maintenance of dog pounds, the  
222 detention and care of impounded dogs in accordance with section 22-  
223 336, municipal animal control officer's equipment, dog supplies and  
224 such veterinary fees as are provided for by law or regulations and shall  
225 not be used for any other purpose except upon written approval of the  
226 commissioner. No fees paid into the treasury of the town for tags or  
227 licenses for dogs shall be paid back to the persons from whom they were  
228 collected.

229 (b) The Commissioner of Agriculture shall, not later than thirty days  
230 after the Department of Agriculture's electronic receipt of fees for dog  
231 licenses and tags, remit to each town clerk twenty-five per cent of each  
232 license fee paid electronically to the department for each dog licensed  
233 within such town. The Commissioner of Agriculture shall keep a  
234 separate dog licensing fee account consisting of all fees received and  
235 expended by the commissioner in accordance with the provisions of this  
236 chapter.

237 Sec. 9. Section 22-349 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
238 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective June 1, 2024*):

239 The town clerk of each town and the Department of Agriculture shall,  
240 annually, on or before July first, provide the municipal animal control  
241 officer or regional animal control officer of each town with a copy of  
242 each dog license issued in such town by such clerk or department. Such  
243 municipal animal control officer or regional animal control officer shall  
244 thereupon make diligent search for any unlicensed dog required to be  
245 licensed by section 22-338, as amended by this act. The commissioner



246 [shall] may adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of  
247 chapter 54 establishing procedures for such search. If the owner of any  
248 such unlicensed dog is not known, the municipal animal control officer  
249 or regional animal control officer shall impound such dog. The owning  
250 or keeping of an unlicensed or impounded dog and the failure to  
251 purchase a license and pay the advertising and redemption fee within  
252 one hundred and twenty hours from the time the dog was impounded  
253 shall be an infraction.

254 Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective June 1, 2024*) The Commissioner of  
255 Agriculture shall create an electronic dog licensing form to be used by  
256 the Department of Agriculture to electronically process dog licenses  
257 pursuant to chapter 435 of the general statutes. Such form shall be in  
258 addition to the standard form created by the commissioner pursuant to  
259 section 22-380g of the general statutes. The commissioner shall  
260 distribute information about such electronic form to veterinarians and  
261 the operators of pet shops, pet grooming facilities, municipal pounds or  
262 dog training facilities who voluntarily agree to make such information  
263 available for the convenience of dog owners.

264 Sec. 11. Sections 22-9, 22-348, 22-352 and 22-380l of the general  
265 statutes are repealed. (*Effective June 1, 2024*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>June 1, 2024</i>	22-338
Sec. 2	<i>June 1, 2024</i>	22-339
Sec. 3	<i>June 1, 2024</i>	22-339a
Sec. 4	<i>June 1, 2024</i>	22-339c(a)
Sec. 5	<i>June 1, 2024</i>	22-340
Sec. 6	<i>June 1, 2024</i>	22-341
Sec. 7	<i>June 1, 2024</i>	22-345
Sec. 8	<i>June 1, 2024</i>	22-347
Sec. 9	<i>June 1, 2024</i>	22-349
Sec. 10	<i>June 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 11	<i>June 1, 2024</i>	Repealer section

**ENV**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*