

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1118**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Michael F. Rush***

*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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

**An Act further clarifying dog bite liability.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Michael F. Rush</i>	<i>Norfolk and Suffolk</i>	
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1118**

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By Mr. Rush, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1118) of Michael F. Rush and Paul  
McMurtry for legislation to further clarify dog bite liability. The Judiciary.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)**  
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An Act further clarifying dog bite liability.

*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 155 of Chapter 140 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020 Official  
2           Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the first sentence and inserting in place thereof the  
3           following sentence:- If any dog shall do any damage to either the body or property of any person,  
4           the owner or keeper or, if the owner or keeper is a minor, the parent or guardian of such minor,  
5           shall be liable for such damage unless such damage shall have been occasioned to the body or  
6           property of a person who, at the time such damage was sustained, was committing a trespass or  
7           other tort or was teasing, tormenting or abusing such dog or unless the injured person was  
8           grossly negligent.