

**SENATE . . . . . No. 2569**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

—  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)**  
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SENATE, January 29, 2024.

The committee on Agriculture, to whom was referred the petitions (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 491) of Anne M. Gobi and Kimberly N. Ferguson for legislation relative to creating an animal advisory board to the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture, report the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 2569).

For the committee,  
Joanne M. Comerford

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An Act relative to creating an animal advisory board to the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           There shall be established an Animal Advisory Board constituted for the general purpose  
2 of advising the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture (MDAR).

3           The members of the advisory board shall include the shelter and rescue coordinator at  
4 MDAR or their designee, who shall serve as chair. The Governor shall appoint 8 additional  
5 persons, 1 of whom shall be a member of a small foster-based rescue; 1 of whom shall be a  
6 member of a larger animal welfare organization; 1 of whom shall be a member of a national  
7 animal welfare organization that provides interstate transport; 1 of whom shall be a veterinarian  
8 who is certified by the Association of Shelter Veterinarians; 1 if whom shall be a veterinarian  
9 experienced with companion animal work; 1 of whom shall be a veterinarian with livestock  
10 and/or farm experience; 1 of whom shall be a lawyer with animal welfare experience, and 1 of  
11 whom shall be an Animal Control Officer operating in the Commonwealth with at least five  
12 years of experience.

13           The advisory board shall meet quarterly and at the call of the commissioner or upon the  
14 written request of any two members. The board is charged with advising the commissioner on  
15 issues relating, but not limited to, shelters, animal control officers, animal inspectors, training  
16 and best practices. The Animal advisory board, in conjunction with the department, shall make  
17 an annual report to the joint committee on agriculture as to their activities under this section.

18           All members of the advisory board will serve without compensation.