

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



**J. BRENDAN SHARKEY**  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

HB 7036 An Act Concerning Bonding for Regional Dog Pounds

Thank you Rep. Berger, Sen. Fonfara, Rep. Davis, Sen. Frantz and the members of the Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee for raising HB 7036 An Act Concerning Bonding for Regional Dog Pounds. This is a proposal that came out of the MORE Commission. This bill will create a \$20 million bond fund from which a city or town that participates in a regional dog pound/animal shelter can apply for a grant-in-aid administered by the Department of Agriculture. The grant may be up to fifty percent of the amount that the city or town has contributed toward the provision, construction, maintenance or improvement of suitable buildings for the operation of the dog pound/animal shelter.

After the great recession that we've just gone through, both the public and policy makers realize we cannot do things the same way. The state should not be in the business of supporting inefficiencies. We need to see more communities coming together to share their resources. There are many towns who already rent space in other town's dog pounds/animal shelters. This will also be helpful when a shelter's condition is deteriorating. This will allow towns or cities to work together to be able to afford to build a new facility or to repair an existing facility.

North Haven has been discussing opening a formal regional shelter with Hamden for several years, he said. Hamden currently rents space at the North Haven Shelter because it doesn't have a shelter. When there is no space available in North Haven, Hamden animal control officers must find space elsewhere. For years the town operated its animal control facilities out of Merryfield Animal Hospital, but since that arrangement ended more than a decade ago, it has looked to other municipalities for space.

This legislation will help our towns work together and will help save some animals from unnecessary destruction due to space considerations.