

**Proposed Substitute
Bill No. 6611**

January Session, 2023

LCO No. 5332

**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 Section 22-338 of the general statutes is repealed and the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 as amended by this act, shall cause such dog to be licensed in the town
6 clerk's office in the town where such dog is kept [, on] or, in the
7 alternative, electronically with the Department of Agriculture, on or
8 before June thirtieth, annually, or at such time as such dog becomes six
9 months old, and annually thereafter, on or before June thirtieth. The
10 owner or keeper shall pay to such town clerk or the Department of
11 Agriculture for such annual license the sum of [seven] fifteen dollars for
12 each [neutered male or spayed female] dog [and the sum of twelve
13 dollars for each unneutered male dog and each unspayed female dog,]
14 and, as applicable, one additional dollar [in each case as] for the town
15 clerk's fee for issuing a tag and license as provided in section 22-340, as
16 amended by this act. [Two dollars from] Twenty-five per cent of each
17 license fee collected for a [neutered or spayed] dog shall be deposited
18 into the animal population control account, established under section
19 22-380g, as amended by this act. If an owner or keeper of a dog fails to
20 procure a license as required by this section, such owner or keeper shall
21 pay the appropriate license fee specified in this section, the town clerk's
22 fee, as applicable, and a penalty of one dollar for each month or fraction

23 thereof the dog remains 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, as
106 amended by this act, shall receive from the town clerk or the
107 Department of Agriculture, as applicable, a license on a form prescribed
108 by the commissioner, which license shall contain a description of the
109 dog and the number under which such dog is licensed. The town clerk
110 or the Department of Agriculture, as applicable, shall issue to such
111 person a tag or plate of material prescribed by the commissioner, upon
112 which shall be distinctly marked [the name of the town in which such
113 dog is licensed,] the license number and the year of license. [No town
114 clerk shall issue such license or tag to any person for any neutered male
115 or spayed female dog not previously licensed as such unless the person
116 causing the dog to be licensed exhibits to the town clerk a certificate
117 from a licensed veterinarian stating that such veterinarian has neutered

118 or spayed the dog or that, after examining the dog, he finds that the dog
119 has been 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, and include with such payment a statement of the
199 number of licenses issued during such year. All moneys received from
200 licenses sold after June thirtieth and all moneys received from the
201 municipal animal control officer [and all license fees returned to the
202 town by the State Treasurer, at the request of the commissioner, under
203 the provisions of section 22-348] shall be kept by the town treasurer or
204 other fiscal officer in the separate dog fund account. The town treasurer
205 or other fiscal officer shall, on the ensuing September first, send fifty per
206 cent, or forty per cent as the case may be, of all license fees in such
207 account to the commissioner, including any penalty fees collected
208 pursuant to section 22-338. All payments to the commissioner shall be
209 accompanied by an account thereof in a form prescribed by the
210 commissioner and a copy of such account shall be sent to the
211 commissioner. Upon the failure of any town treasurer or other fiscal
212 officer to pay any amount due pursuant to this section, or any portion
213 thereof, within forty-five days from its due date, the commissioner shall
214 add interest of one and one-fourth per cent per month or fraction thereof
215 on the amount unpaid per month or fraction thereof from the due date

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

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

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

238 The town clerk of each town and the Department of Agriculture shall,
239 annually, on or before July first, provide the municipal animal control
240 officer or regional animal control officer of each town with a copy of
241 each dog license issued in such town by such clerk or department. Such
242 municipal animal control officer or regional animal control officer shall
243 thereupon make diligent search for any unlicensed dog required to be
244 licensed by section 22-338, as amended by this act. The commissioner
245 [shall] may adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of
246 chapter 54 establishing procedures for such search. If the owner of any
247 such unlicensed dog is not known, the municipal animal control officer

248 or regional animal control officer shall impound such dog. The owning
249 or keeping of an unlicensed or impounded dog and the failure to
250 purchase a license and pay the advertising and redemption fee within
251 one hundred and twenty hours from the time the dog was impounded
252 shall be an infraction.

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

263 Sec. 11. Sections 22-9, 22-348, 22-352 and 22-380l of the general
264 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