SENATE No. 118

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Nick Collins

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 relative to the licensure of dog trainers.

PETITION OF:

NAME: Nick Collins DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

First Suffolk

SENATE DOCKET, NO. 2147 FILED ON: 1/18/2019 SENATE No. 118

By Mr. Collins, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 118) of Nick Collins for legislation relative to the licensure of dog trainers. Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court (2019-2020)

An Act relative to the licensure of dog trainers.

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 1. Chapter 140 of the Massachusetts General laws is hereby amended by
2	adding the following section 137E:
3	SECTION 2. The following words in this section shall have the following meanings:
4	"Board" means the Dog Trainer Board of Examiners established under section 2 of
5	this act.
6	"Director" means the Director of the Division of Professional Licensure
7	"Dog training" means the handling or training of dogs for a fee, salary, or other form
8	of compensation.
9	"Dog trainer" means a person engaged in the practice of dog training or behavior
10	modification who is licensed pursuant to the provisions of this act.

11 SECTION 3. There is hereby created within the Division of Professional Licensure the 12 Dog Trainer Board of Examiners. The board shall consist of nine members who are residents of 13 this State and who shall be appointed by the Governor, as follows: one member shall be from the 14 Department of Agriculture; three members shall be, except for the members first appointed, dog 15 trainers licensed pursuant to the provisions of this act; two members shall be veterinarians 16 licensed in this State; and three members shall be affiliated with an animal protection group. The 17 Governor shall appoint each member, other than the State executive department member, for 18 terms of four years, except that of the members first appointed, two shall serve for a term of four 19 years, two shall serve for a term of three years, two shall serve for a term of two years, and two 20 shall serve for terms of one year. Any vacancy in the membership of the board shall be filled for 21 the unexpired term in the manner provided for the original appointment. No member of the 22 board may serve more than two successive terms in addition to any unexpired term to which the 23 member has been appointed.

SECTION 4. The board shall organize within 30 days after the appointment of its members and shall annually elect from among its members a chairperson and vice-chairperson, and shall appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the board. The board shall meet twice a year and may hold additional meetings as necessary to discharge its duties. A majority of the board membership shall constitute a quorum.

- 29 SECTION 5.
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The board shall:

a. adopt a seal to authenticate its records and proceedings;

b. prescribe rules pertaining to types and methods of examination of applicants for
licensure;

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33	c. examine and pass on the qualifications of applicants for licensure under this act,
34	and issue a license to each qualified and successful applicant, attesting to the applicant's
35	professional qualification to practice as a dog trainer;
36	d. keep records of its proceedings and a register of all persons to whom licenses
37	have been issued, and a record of all license renewals, suspensions and revocations;
38	e. maintain records of expenses incurred by members of the board in the
39	performance of their duties;
40	f. take disciplinary action, against any dog trainer who violates the provisions of
41	this act or any regulation promulgated hereunder;
42	g. adopt rules and regulations as it deems necessary to administer the provisions of
43	this act; and
44	h. Prescribe or change the charges for examination, licensure, renewal and other
45	services performed.
46	SECTION 6. There shall be an Executive Director of the board appointed by the
47	director who shall serve at the director's pleasure. The salary of the Executive Director shall be
48	determined by the director within the limit of available funds. The director may, within the
49	limits of available funds, hire any assistants as are necessary to administer this act.
50	SECTION 7. No person shall practice, attempt to practice, or hold himself out as being
51	able to practice dog training unless that person is licensed in accordance with the provisions of
52	this act.

53	SECTION 8. To be eligible to be licensed as a dog trainer, an applicant shall fulfill the
54	following requirements:
55	a. be at least 18 years of age;
56	b. be of good moral character;
57	c. have successfully completed high school or successfully passed a high school
58	equivalency examination developed by the General Education Development (GED) Testing
59	Service;
60	d. have successfully completed a minimum of 300 hours in dog training, under the
61	supervision of, and documented by, a dog trainer licensed pursuant to this act, within the three
62	years immediately preceding application for licensure under this act pursuant to the following:
63	(1) of the 300 hours required, no less than 225 hours shall include training in
64	conducting group dog training classes, conducting private dog training classes, and consulting
65	with clients;
66	(2) of the 300 hours required, up to 75 hours may include work as a licensed dog
67	trainer's assistant, work as a veterinary technician or assistant, work as a dog groomer,
68	volunteering at an animal shelter, designing dog training lesson plans, or consulting with a
69	licensed dog trainer on client cases;
70	(3) hours of experience gained as a licensed dog trainer's assistant may count toward
71	the hours required under paragraph (1) of this subsection provided that the applicant's role as an
72	assistant includes actively instructing a client or training a dog;

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(4) if any of the hours of experience gained under paragraph (2) of this subsection are
not under the supervision of a licensed dog trainer, the applicant shall provide documentation
from any other person that supervised the applicant, including, but not limited to, a veterinarian,
an owner or supervisory employee of a dog grooming business, or a supervisory employee of an
animal shelter; and

(5) the 300 hours of experience required under this subsection shall not apply to any
applicant who submits proof satisfactory to the board no later than 180 days after the date
procedures are established by the board for applying for licensure under this act that the
applicant has engaged in the practice of dog training in this State continuously for at least one
year prior to the effective date of this act; and

83 e. pass an examination administered or approved by the board to determine the 84 applicant's competence to practice dog training; except that this requirement shall not apply to 85 any applicant who submits proof satisfactory to the board no later than 180 days after the date 86 procedures are established by the board for applying for licensure under this act that the 87 applicant has passed any Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers (CCPDT) 88 certification examination, or any other examination that is determined by the board to be a 89 substantially similar assessment of dog training skills and competency, prior to the effective date 90 of this act.

SECTION 9. Each applicant for a license as a dog trainer shall be examined by the
board. The examination shall be held at least twice a year at the times and places to be
determined by the board. The board, in consultation with the Certification Council for
Professional Dog Trainers (CCPDT), shall adopt as the examination required under this section

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any examination as developed and administered by CCPDT, or any other examination that is
determined by the board to be a substantially similar assessment of dog training skills and
competency.

98 SECTION 10. a. All licenses shall be issued for a three-year period and shall be99 renewed upon filing a renewal application.

b. All applicants shall pay a fee for licensure and renewal for licensure under this
act. Fees shall be determined by the board and established by regulation. The revenue generated
from these fees shall not exceed the operating costs incurred by the board in administering this
act.

104 c. A license shall not be renewed until the license holder submits satisfactory 105 evidence to the board that during the preceding three years the license holder has completed such 106 continuing education credits as are to be determined by the board pursuant to regulation. The 107 board shall approve, in consultation with the Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers 108 (CCPDT), continuing education credits that build upon the basic knowledge of dog training and 109 which enhance the competency of the license holder. The board may make exceptions from the 110 continuing education requirement in emergency or hardship cases with the approval of an 111 affirmative vote of a majority of the board.

112 SECTION 11. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2021.