



## **MVMA Legislative Report**

Massachusetts legislators had a busy month in July, moving issues forward in order to get bills passed and on to the Governor's desk before the end of "formal" session on July 31. The House and Senate will continue to hold "informal" sessions during the rest of 2014, but rarely does contentious legislation pass during this time.

After MVMA's work with the Judiciary Committee on Senator Tarr's "PAWS" bill, amended language relative to reporting was incorporated into a new bill, supported by MVMA and MSPCA. By the close of session on July 31, the Senate had engrossed S.2345 and the House had engrossed H.4388. The language in both bills appears to be the same – and thus there is a strong possibility it will get to the Governor's desk this session.

In June, Representative Lewis' and Senator Hedlund's bills on farm animal cruelty and confinement (S.741 and H.1456) were redrafted in the Judiciary Committee and given a new bill number and title: S.2232 An act to ensure continued humane animal care in Massachusetts. This new bill was given a favorable report by the Committee and sent to Senate Ways and Means where it remains. Representative Kulik's bill, An act to promote the care and well-being of livestock, was given a new bill number, H.4008, and referred to House Ways and Means. MVMA supports H.4008 because it creates a Care and Standards Board. The bill has not moved forward as of July 31.