

AN ACT TO ENSURE CONTINUED HUMANE ANIMAL CARE IN MASSACHUSETTS (S.2232)



WHAT WOULD S.2232 DO?

S.2232 would prevent two of most extreme forms of animal confinement—veal and gestation crates—in the Commonwealth. In these crates, calves or pigs are virtually immobilized for months on end. Recently a North Shore pork producer testified in writing that they want to start using gestation crates. We must stop this cruelty before it starts.

If amended to include protections for chickens, S.2232 would also end the practice of locking hens in battery cages, which are so small that the hens cannot spread their wings. **Thousands of Massachusetts hens are currently in these barren, wire cages.**

This bipartisan bill, filed by Sen. Lewis & Sen. Hedlund, recently received a favorable report from the **Judiciary Committee.**

WHY DO WE NEED S.2232?

Farm animals deserve, at least, the opportunity to move. This legislation will **end such inhumane confinement** in our state and **close the door to cruel, polluting factory farms** in the Commonwealth. It will also **build consumer trust** thereby **protecting our Massachusetts brand of agriculture.**

WHO SUPPORTS THIS BILL?

Massachusetts voters. A 2014 Mason Dixon poll found that over **90% of Massachusetts voters** favor outlawing these cruel confinement systems. The bill has also been endorsed by more than 40 local farms and more than 200 Massachusetts veterinarians.

A broad coalition of animal protection, sustainable farming, food safety, and environmental advocates. This includes the MSPCA, Mass Voters for Animals, Center for Food Safety, Berkshires Votes for Animals, Friends of the Earth, Winslow Farm Sanctuary, Maple Farm Sanctuary, Dakin Humane Society, the Humane Society of the United States, Massachusetts Sierra Club, Farm Forward, Farm Sanctuary, Animal Welfare Institute, the ASPCA, Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association, the Animal Legal Defense Fund, the Boston Humane League, and Western Massachusetts Animal Rights Advocates.

WILL S.2232 HAVE A FISCAL IMPACT?

No. This law will be part of the chapter of laws that covers animal cruelty and will not require new regulations or inspections. Enforcement will be complaint-based, as with other incidents of animal cruelty.

HAVE OTHER STATES PASSED SIMILAR LAWS?

Yes. Momentum is building. RI, ME, OH, CO, MI, OR, AZ, FL, KY and CA have passed similar rules, and New Jersey's Senate overwhelmingly passed similar legislation this session. The European Union has maintained a ban on these practices for years and the Canadian government recently passed a regulation that will prohibit the lifelong confinement of pig in gestation crates. It is time to pass S.2232.