

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Two

AN ACT relative to companion animals during a declared state of emergency.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 New Subdivision; Emergency Shelter for Companion Animals. Amend RSA 126-A by inserting
2 after section 97 the following new subdivision:

3 Emergency Shelter for Companion Animals

4 126-A:98 State Policy for Companion Animals. During a declared state of emergency containing
5 an evacuation order, any hotel or community shelter which is required to shelter evacuated persons
6 shall also shelter any companion animal belonging to such evacuated persons.

7 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

HB 1186 - AS INTRODUCED

2022 SESSION

22-2269

08/04

HOUSE BILL **1186**

AN ACT relative to companion animals during a declared state of emergency.

SPONSORS: Rep. Gallagher, Merr. 15; Rep. Read, Rock. 17; Rep. Amanda Bouldin, Hills. 12

COMMITTEE: Environment and Agriculture

ANALYSIS

This bill requires shelters to accept companion animals during a declared state of emergency.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struck through.~~]
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

Rep. Pearl, Merr. 26
February 15, 2022
2022-0727h
08/04

Amendment to HB 1186

1 Amend RSA 126-A:98 as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

2

3 126-A:98 State Policy for Companion Animals. During a declared state of emergency as defined
4 in RSA 4:45, III(c) containing an evacuation order, any hotel or community shelter that shelters
5 evacuated persons shall allow disaster animal response trailers, or other reasonable
6 accommodations, on site to accommodate any companion animal belonging to such evacuated
7 persons. The maximum number of animals per family entering the hotel or community shelter shall
8 comply with local ordinances. For the purpose of this section, "companion animal" means a cat, dog,
9 or other legally-owned animal kept in an enclosure that might typically be found in a home. During
10 such emergency, any volunteer who has been vetted by the department of health and human services
11 and is a member of the disaster animal response team and is assisting evacuated persons and
12 companion animals shall be considered an emergency worker under RSA 21-P:41, VI(c).

Heather Goley

From: Howard Pearl
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 7:27 PM
To: Heather Goley
Subject: HB1186 committee report

Below is the committee report for HB1186
It is on consent with a 19-0 vote

HB1186

Howard Pearl for the committee. As amended, this bill creates a requirement that during a declared state of emergency as defined in RSA 4:45, III(c) containing an evacuation order, any hotel or community shelter that shelters evacuated persons shall allow disaster animal response trailers, or other reasonable accommodations, on site to accommodate any companion animal belonging to such evacuated persons. The committee received testimony that some residents will not evacuate to emergency shelter during an evacuation order if accommodations are not available for their companion animals. Additionally, this bill provides coverage for trained animal care providers during the emergency for injuries occurring due to that service.

Howard C Pearl

State Representative Merrimack 26

Owner Pearl & Sons Farm LLC

Loudon Town Moderator

Environment & Agriculture Committee Chair

Member NH Solid Waste Working Group

Member NH Weights & Measures Advisory Board

NH Farm Bureau Treasurer

409 Loudon Ridge Rd

Loudon N.H. 03307

603-231-1482 cell

CONSENT CALENDAR

Environment and Agriculture

HB 1186, relative to companion animals during a declared state of emergency. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Howard Pearl for Environment and Agriculture. As amended, this bill creates a requirement that during a declared state of emergency as defined in RSA 4:45, III(c) containing an evacuation order, any hotel or community shelter that shelters evacuated persons shall allow disaster animal response trailers, or other reasonable accommodations, on site to accommodate any companion animal belonging to such evacuated persons. The committee received testimony that some residents will not evacuate to emergency shelter during an evacuation order if accommodations are not available for their companion animals. Additionally, this bill provides coverage for trained animal care providers during the emergency for injuries occurring due to that service. **Vote 19-0.**

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	Environment and Agriculture
Bill Number:	HB 1186
Title:	relative to companion animals during a declared state of emergency.
Date:	March 4, 2022
Consent Calendar:	CONSENT
Recommendation:	OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT 2022-0727h

STATEMENT OF INTENT

As amended, this bill creates a requirement that during a declared state of emergency as defined in RSA 4:45, III(c) containing an evacuation order, any hotel or community shelter that shelters evacuated persons shall allow disaster animal response trailers, or other reasonable accommodations, on site to accommodate any companion animal belonging to such evacuated persons. The committee received testimony that some residents will not evacuate to emergency shelter during an evacuation order if accommodations are not available for their companion animals. Additionally, this bill provides coverage for trained animal care providers during the emergency for injuries occurring due to that service.

Vote 19-0.

Rep. Howard Pearl
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

CONSENT CALENDAR

March 4, 2022

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Committee on Environment and Agriculture to which was referred HB 1186,

AN ACT relative to companion animals during a declared state of emergency. Having considered the same, report the same with the following amendment, and the recommendation that the bill OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.

Rep. Howard Pearl

FOR THE COMMITTEE

Rep. Pearl, Merr. 26
February 15, 2022
2022-0727h
08/04

Amendment to HB 1186

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6 accommodations, on site to accommodate any companion animal belonging to such evacuated
7 persons. The maximum number of animals per family entering the hotel or community shelter shall
8 comply with local ordinances. For the purpose of this section, "companion animal" means a cat, dog,
9 or other legally-owned animal kept in an enclosure that might typically be found in a home. During
10 such emergency, any volunteer who has been vetted by the department of health and human services
11 and is a member of the disaster animal response team and is assisting evacuated persons and
12 companion animals shall be considered an emergency worker under RSA 21-P:41, VI(c).

is a disincentive for anyone who is not an employee of the state as there is no protection for them, but state employees have protections. How many animals they may have is governed by local ordinances

Rep Murray – DART trailers are already there, would they be transported to another location, and when the animals are put on them, will they be relocated A. understanding that there are kennels and there would be identifiable tags

Rep Bixby – are there laws in other states that could be a model for this A. the biggest issue with this is funding as it was supposed to be through a grant

Rep Pearl – read through amendment quickly

Angela Ferrari – Dog Owners of the Granite State – AKC affiliated – we support this bill, would be happy to work with us regarding issues raised

Blue Sheet – 4 in support

Online – 28 in support 2 opposed

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 1186-FN

BILL TITLE: AN ACT relative to companion animals during a declared state of emergency.

DATE: January 25, 2022

ROOM: 301

Time Public Hearing Called to Order: _2:30 p.m.

Time Adjourned: _3:02 p.m.

(please circle if present)

Committee Members: Reps. Pearl, Aron, Comtois, Davis, Stapleton, Homola, Kennedy, Mason, G. Sanborn, Bixby, Horrigan, Schultz, Dutzy, M. Murray, Caplan Von Plinsky, and Perez

Bill Sponsors: Rep. Gallagher, Merr. 15; Rep. Read, Rock. 17; Rep. Amanda Bouldin, Hills. 12

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

Rep Gallagher – introducing bill – Federal Government passed the Pet Evacuation bill setting up standards on how pets would be handled during an emergency – This bill is to close some loopholes for when people get sheltered into hotels – there is an amendment – there was a concern that community shelter was a little vague – HHS – Disaster Animal Response Team – I am confused why this bill is before this committee and not HHS – enlist help of volunteers to help people evacuate animals – state law is unclear on how to treat these volunteers and defines them as emergency workers

Rep Pearl – we have not seen copies of the amendment, please provide that to committee after hearing

Rep Homola – how does the process work now? A. FEMA shelters animals & people, they are kept together, if not DHHS has a trailer that they put the animals into Q. companion animal, there is no limit on what it is a companion animal A. intent is dogs, cats, snakes, guinea pigs, rodents, etc....

Rep Horrigan – term companion animals - does it cover service animals or is that already defined A. I do not know.

Rep Murray – is there a limit to how many companion animals can join a person A. fair point, but none written in the language, I would assume the volunteers would not pack too many in a room

Rep Read – have a similar bill in another committee – am a cosponsor of this bill – cats, dogs, and animals in enclosures – the limit would be whatever city ordinances exist

Stacey Ober – AKC – we support the intent of the bill – back in 2006 NH enacted statutory language for service animals in an emergency – reached out to DHHS and they have 4 trailers that could accommodate about 200 animals – DART program – the volunteer network has fallen apart – there

Rep. Bixby – are there laws in other states that could be a model for this A. the biggest issue with this is funding as it was supposed to be through a grant

Rep. Pearl – read through amendment quickly

Angela Ferrari – Dog Owners of the Granite State – AKC affiliated – we support this bill, would be happy to work with us regarding issues raised

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Barbara Comtois
Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 1186

BILL TITLE: relative to companion animals during a declared state of emergency.

DATE: January 25, 2022

LOB ROOM: 301 - 303 **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 2:30 p.m.

Time Adjourned: 3:02 p.m.

Committee Members: Reps. Pearl, Aron, Comtois, Davis, Stapleton, Homola, Kennedy, Mason, G. Sanborn, Bixby, Dutzy, M. Murray, Von Plinsky, Caplan and Perez

Bill Sponsors:

Rep. Gallager

Rep. Read

Rep. Amanda Bouldin

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

Rep. Eric Gallager – introducing bill – Federal Government passed the Pet Evacuation bill setting up standards on how pets would be handled during an emergency – This bill is to close some loopholes for when people get sheltered into hotels – there is an amendment – there was a concern that community shelter was a little vague – HHS – Disaster Animal Response Team – I am confused why this bill is before this committee and not HHS – enlist help of volunteers to help people evacuate animals – state law is unclear on how to treat these volunteers and defines them as emergency workers

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Rep. Murray – DART trailers are already there, would they be transported to another location, and when the animals are put on them, will they be relocated A. understanding that there are kennels and there would be identifiable tags

<u>Name</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Attachment</u>	<u>Typed</u>
Michelle Fransen-Conroy	Concord	NH	Support		
Nancy Pollard	Keene	NH	Support		
Pam Freilich	Dunbarton	NH	Support		
patricia snyder	Durham	NH	Support		
Simon Berrio	Holderness	NH	Oppose		
Susan Thompson	Manchester	NH	Support		
Suzanne Fournier	Milford	NH	Support		
Tone Grochala	Milford	NH	Support		
Virginia Smith	Manchester	NH	Support		

The New Hampshire
House of Representatives

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - ONLINE TESTIMONY SUBMISSIONS

House Environment and Agriculture ▼

HB1186 ▼

Support: 28 | Oppose: 2 | Neutral: 0

<u>Name</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Attachment</u>	<u>Typed</u>
Alan Branson	Loudon	NH	Support		
BJ Wahl	Sullivan	NH	Support		
Bob Switzer	Sullivan	NH	Support		
Carole Flis	Stratham	NH	Support		
Catherine Peternel	Wolfboro	NH	Oppose		
Christian Perry	Hampton	NH	Support		
Cynthia Glenn	Merrimack	NH	Support		
Diane Richardson	Springfield	NH	Support		
Dustin Grochala	Milford	NH	Support		
Elise Caplan	Grantham	NH	Support		
Elizabeth Herrick	Deering	NH	Support		
Elizabeth Marino	Goffstown	NH	Support		
Joan OBrien	Amherst	NH	Support		
Joseph LiPetri	Merrimack	NH	Support		
Julie Loosigian	Sunapee	NH	Support		
Karen Campbell	Epsom	NH	Support		
Kathryn Davis	Rochester	NH	Support		
Katrina Yurenka	Jaffrey	NH	Support		
Kristina Snyder	Chester	NH	Support		
Linda Dionne	Raymond	NH	Support		
LYNNE SPIEGEL	BRISTOL	NH	Support		

House Remote Testify

Environment and Agriculture Committee Testify List for Bill HB1186 on 2022-01-25

Support: 28 Oppose: 2 Neutral: 0 Total to Testify: 0

Export to Excel

<u>Name</u>	<u>City, State</u> <u>Email Address</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Testifying</u>	<u>Non-Germane</u>	<u>Signed Up</u>
Richardson, Diane	Springfield, NH Frontierrots@msn.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/5/2022 8:40 PM
Berrio, Simon	Holderness, NH s_berrio@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/13/2022 5:05 PM
Peternel, Catherine	Wolfeboro, NH katypeternel@pm.me	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/23/2022 7:49 AM
Herrick, Elizabeth	Deering, NH lherrick@outlook.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/23/2022 2:19 PM
Yurenka, Katrina	Jaffrey, NH kyurenka@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/23/2022 2:56 PM
Branson, Alan	Loudon, NH alanb1027@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/23/2022 3:02 PM
Marino, Elizabeth	Goffstown, NH bethmarino@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/23/2022 3:07 PM
Dionne, Linda	Raymond, NH Lindld@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/23/2022 3:43 PM
Freilich, Pam	Dunbarton, NH pam@gmavt.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/23/2022 4:21 PM
snyder, patricia	Durham, NH penguinbird2@hotmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/23/2022 4:37 PM
Caplan, Elise	Grantham, NH elisegrila@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/23/2022 6:06 PM
Fournier, Suzanne	Milford, NH animalfriendlysolutions@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/23/2022 6:17 PM
Snyder, Kristina	Chester, NH khsnyder22@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/23/2022 8:25 PM

Perry, Christian	Hampton, NH plasmic@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 10:27 AM
Davis, Kathryn	Rochester, NH dvs.kthryn@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 10:45 AM
SPIEGEL, LYNNE	BRISTOL, NH LYNNESPIEGEL@GMAIL.COM	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 11:46 AM
Pollard, Nancy	Keene, NH pollardnancy@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 2:04 PM
Thompson, Susan	Manchester, NH ginsu@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 7:15 PM
Smith, Virginia	Manchester, NH ginsul@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 7:19 PM
Loosigian, Julie	Sunapee, NH jloosigian@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 9:15 PM
Fransen-Conroy, Michelle	Concord, NH mshellfc@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 10:03 PM
Flis, Carole	Stratham, NH decaf12@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 10:09 PM
Grochala, Tone	Milford, NH Tbratteng@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 11:59 PM
Grochala, Dustin	Milford, NH Dustin.grochala@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/25/2022 12:01 AM
OBrien, Joan	Amherst, NH joanlobrien@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/25/2022 12:15 AM
Glenn, Cynthia	Merrimack, NH cglenn410@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/25/2022 8:27 AM
LiPetri, Joseph	Merrimack, NH jlipetri@live.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/25/2022 8:28 AM
Campbell, Karen	Epsom, NH klynncampbell50@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/25/2022 8:29 AM
Switzer, Bob	Sullivan, NH macswitz@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/25/2022 10:51 AM
Wahl, BJ	Sullivan, NH bjwahl@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/25/2022 10:52 AM

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

SUBCOMMITTEE WORK SESSION on HB 1186

BILL TITLE: relative to companion animals during a declared state of emergency.

DATE: 2/8/22

Subcommittee Members: Reps. Pearl, Aron, Davis, Kennedy, Bixby, Von Plinsky and Perez

Comments and Recommendations:

Chairman Pearl added possible amendment language that takes concerns of the committee, AKC, other organizations, citizens and Rep. Gallagher's amendment 2022-0322h. Work session will follow after committee's suggestions such as responsibility of animal shelter trailers, and possible statutes for a evacuation order are added.

MOTIONS: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Retained (1st Yr), Interim Study (2nd Yr) (Please circle one)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ AM Vote: _____

Adoption of Amendment # _____

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

_____ Amendment Adopted _____ Amendment Failed

MOTIONS: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Retained (1st Yr), Interim Study (2nd Yr) (Please circle one)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ AM Vote: _____

Adoption of Amendment # _____

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

_____ Amendment Adopted _____ Amendment Failed

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Margaret A. Kennedy Subcommittee Chairman/Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

SUBCOMMITTEE WORK SESSION on HB 1186

BILL TITLE: relative to companion animals during a declared state of emergency.

DATE: February 8, 2022

Subcommittee Members: Reps. Pearl, Aron, Kennedy, Bixby and Von Plinsky

Comments and Recommendations: Chairman Pearl added possible amendment language that takes concerns of the committee, AKC, other organizations, citizens, and Rep. Gallagher's amendment 2022-0322h. Work Session will follow after committees suggestions such as responsibility of animal shelter trailers, and possible statutes for an evacuation order are added.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Margaret Kennedy
Subcommittee Clerk

SUBCOMMITTEE WORK SESSION on HB 1186

BILL TITLE: relative to companion animals during a declared state of emergency.

DATE: 2/1/22

Subcommittee Members: Reps. Pearl, Aron, Comtois, ~~Verville~~, ~~Davis~~, ~~Stapleton~~, Homola, Kennedy, Mason, G. Sanborn, Bixby, ~~Sofikitis~~, Andrew Bouldin, Dutzy, M. Murray, Von Plinsky, ~~Caplan~~ and Perez

Comments and Recommendations:

grammatical error end of line 10-add "Be"
intent of bill is good - needs more study -
term Community Shelter - Needs to be defined
Do we want to mandate/require businesses - what is the liability

MOTIONS: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Retained (1st Yr), Interim Study (2nd Yr)
(Please circle one)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ AM Vote: _____

Adoption of Amendment # 0322H

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

_____ Amendment Adopted _____ Amendment Failed

MOTIONS: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Retained (1st Yr), Interim Study (2nd Yr)
(Please circle one)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ AM Vote: _____

Adoption of Amendment # _____

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

_____ Amendment Adopted _____ Amendment Failed

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. _____
Subcommittee Chairman/Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

SUBCOMMITTEE WORK SESSION on HB 1186

BILL TITLE: relative to companion animals during a declared state of emergency.

DATE: February 1, 2022

Subcommittee Members: Reps. Pearl, Aron, Comtois, Homola, Kennedy, Mason, G. Sanborn, Bixby, Andrew Bouldin, Dutzy, M. Murray, Von Plinsky and Perez

Comments and Recommendations: Grammatical error and if line 10 - add "Be" intent of bill is good - needs more study. Term community shelter needs to be defined. Do we want to mandate/require businesses - what is the liability.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Barbara Comtois
Subcommittee Clerk

Rep. Pearl, Merr. 26
February 15, 2022
2022-0727h
08/04

Amendment to HB 1186

1 Amend RSA 126-A:98 as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

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9 or other legally-owned animal kept in an enclosure that might typically be found in a home. During
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11 and is a member of the disaster animal response team and is assisting evacuated persons and
12 companion animals shall be considered an emergency worker under RSA 21-P:41, VI(c).

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

SUBCOMMITTEE WORK SESSION on HB 1186

BILL TITLE: relative to companion animals during a declared state of emergency.

DATE: 3/1/22

Subcommittee Members: Reps. Pearl, Aron, Davis, Kennedy, Bixby, Von Plinsky and Perez

Comments and Recommendations:

Chair Pearl presented amendment 2022-0727H to HB 1186
No objections to amendment - Amendment unanimously accepted - HB 1186 OTP-A - also unanimous

MOTIONS: (OTP) OTP/A, ITL, Retained (1st Yr), Interim Study (2nd Yr)
(Please circle one)

Moved by Rep. Pearl Seconded by Rep. Bixby Subcomm AM Vote: 7-0

Adoption of Amendment # 2022-0727H

Moved by Rep. Seconded by Rep. Vote:

Amendment Adopted Amendment Failed

MOTIONS: OTP, (OTP/A), ITL, Retained (1st Yr), Interim Study (2nd Yr)
(Please circle one)

Moved by Rep. Pearl Seconded by Rep. Bixby Subcomm AM Vote: 7-0

Adoption of Amendment # HB 1186 OTP/A

Moved by Rep. Seconded by Rep. Vote:

Amendment Adopted Amendment Failed

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Judy Aron
Subcommittee Chairman/Clerk

Heather Goley

From: Michelle FransenConroy <mshellfc@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 10:41 PM
To: ~House Environment and Agriculture Committee
Subject: Support for HB 1186

Dear Chairman Pearl and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of House Bill 1186 that would require shelters to accept companion animals during a declared state of emergency in NH.

I support this bill because our companion animals are family members and they should be treated as such. People should not be forced to leave their beloved pets behind to fend for themselves in potentially perilous circumstances.

Thank you for your consideration and also for taking the time to read my email.

Sincerely,

Michelle Fransen-Conroy
Concord, NH

Heather Goley

From: Lynne Spiegel <lynnespiegel@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 11:52 AM
To: ~House Environment and Agriculture Committee
Subject: HB 1186

OF COURSE SHELTERS MUST ACCEPT PETS DURING AN EMERGENCY. MANY PET OWNERS, MYSELF INCLUDED, WOULD STAY HOME AND DIE-RATHER THAN LEAVE ANIMALS BEHIND TO GO TO A PET-FREE SHELTER.

Heather Goley

From: Debra Perry <debraperry@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2022 3:57 PM
To: ~House Environment and Agriculture Committee
Subject: Support for HB 1186

Dear Chairman Pearl and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 1186 to require shelters to accept companion animals during a declared state of emergency.

I support this bill because:

Both humans and animals are already enough stressed, traumatized, and possibly even still in shock during a state of emergency. Especially one in which they've been uprooted from their home and normal routines.

Animals and their guardians are families. They deserve the right to continue to support and comfort and care for each other just like two-legged family members of all other ages and sizes can, most especially in the time of emergency when you need your family members most by your side and to know that they are safe.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Debra Perry
Hampton, NH

Heather Goley

From: Katrina Yurenka <kyurenka@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2022 2:56 PM
To: ~House Environment and Agriculture Committee
Subject: Fwd: Support for HB 1186

Subject: Support for HB 1186

To: <HouseEnvironmentandAgricultureCommittee@leg.state.nh.us>

Dear Chairman Pearl and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 1186 to require shelters to accept companion animals during a declared state of emergency.

I support this bill because HB 1186 will help ensure that companion animals don't get left behind in the case of a state of emergency in New Hampshire.

Thank you for your consideration.
Katrina Yurenka, Jaffrey, NH

Heather Goley

From: Nuha Haddad <nuha.haddad10@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2022 2:26 PM
To: ~House Environment and Agriculture Committee; Nuha Haddad
Subject: Support for HB 1186

Dear Chairman Pearl and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 1186 to require shelters to accept companion animals during a declared state of emergency.

**Nuha Haddad
Concord, NH**

Heather Goley

From: Jean Slepian <jeans1155@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2022 12:27 PM
To: ~House Environment and Agriculture Committee; Eric Gallager
Subject: HB 1186 testimony

Honorable Members of the House Environment and Agriculture Committee,

Thank you for considering my testimony in support of HB 1186 which requires that shelters and hotels that function as shelters during a declared state of emergency with evacuation orders must accommodate companion animals.

My name is Jean Slepian. I live in Stoddard, in Cheshire County. I am not employed by any animal protection organization, but I have been a citizen lobbyist for animal protection legislation for many years.

In 2005, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, animal lovers all over the country watched in disbelief as beloved pets were ripped from the arms of screaming children and people were forced to leave their animal companions behind in order to be evacuated from flooded homes. These images left an indelible impression of vulnerable people who had already lost their homes and possessions being treated with cold cruelty by those who were sent to rescue them.

In response to this tragedy, in 2006, the US Congress passed the Pet Evacuation and Transportation Safety Act which requires that in order to receive federal funding for disaster management plans, states must have a plan in place to include companion animals in disaster evacuation plans. The remarkable speed with which the US Congress passed the PETS Act indicates that our US Congressional representatives understood how important this issue was to their constituents.

Here in New Hampshire in 2006, we passed a law that requires that all efforts be made to keep service animals together with their human companions during a declared state of emergency (RSA 21-P:37-a).

We also have a very loosely organized network of volunteer Disaster Animal Response Teams (NH-DART) at several locations throughout the state. Some of the teams are affiliated with local animal shelters, some are not. In addition, private national animal protection organizations like HSUS and ASPCA sometimes provide assistance in disaster rescue situations. In 2020 the NH DHHS Department posted an employment opportunity for a part time manager for the NH DART system, but I don't know the current status of that position.

I believe that HB 1186 will bring much needed organization and clarity to New Hampshire's disaster evacuation plans for companion animals, and will also ensure that we are able to receive federal funds for disaster plans. I know that this is an extremely significant issue for NH citizens who love their animal companions and I strongly urge you to support it. Thank you.

Jean Slepian
1253 Route 123 North
Stoddard NH 03464
603-446-7961 ; jeans1155@hotmail.com

Heather Goley

From: Maura Chappelle <maurachappelle@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 10:50 PM
To: ~House Environment and Agriculture Committee
Subject: clarify what is Evacuation

Hi, regarding HB1186 what do you mean by Evacuation?

Does quarantining due to covid at a hotel count as evacuation? what about damage to a house so it's declared uninhabitable?

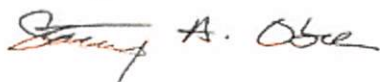
Thank you,

Maura Annette Chappelle
Jefferson New Hampshire

team of trained volunteers. According to [RSA 21-P:41 VI\(c\)](#), “emergency management workers” that are not public employees are afforded the same rights as to compensation for injuries as are provided by law for state employees. Without a definition for “emergency management workers” it is uncertain what liability protection, if any, trained volunteers could expect. This makes it very difficult to recruit an emergency evacuation team for these purposes. Our recommendation is to explicitly provide disaster animal response team volunteers with the same protections outlined in this statutory section.

Please know that AKC and our affiliated dog clubs are available as a resource to you. I can be reached at (919) 816-3348 or Stacey.Ober@akc.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stacey A. Ober". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S".

Stacey Ober, JD
Legislative Analyst and Community Outreach Coordinator, New England
AKC Government Relations

CC: The Honorable Eric Gallager, Sponsor HB 1186
Angela Ferrari, Dog Owners of the Granite State (DOGS)



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM

Stacey Ober, J.D.
Legislative Analyst
Community Outreach
New England Region

January 25, 2022

The Honorable Howard Pearl, Chair
New Hampshire House Committee on Environment and Agriculture
LOB Room 303, 33 North State Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

RE: American Kennel Club Supports HB 1118, Relative to Companion Animals During a Declared State of Emergency-- with Amendments.

Dear Chair Pearl and Members of the House Committee on Environment and Agriculture:

Founded in 1884, the American Kennel Club (AKC) is a recognized and trusted expert in canine health, breeding, and training. We represent over 5,000 dog clubs nationally, including 14 in New Hampshire, which represent thousands of dog owners. We advocate for the purebred dog as a family companion, advance canine health and well-being, protect the rights of dog owners, and promote the ideals of responsible dog ownership.

HB 1186 would require shelters to accept companion animals during a declared state of emergency. AKC supports Representative Gallager's initiative in raising this safety issue. AKC Reunite, working in conjunction with AKC clubs, raises funds to help supply stocked mobile AKC Pet Disaster Relief Trailers, which deliver essential, nonperishable necessities to local emergency management to assist in sheltering pets when and where needed. The trailers provide animal care services during the first critical hours following a disaster, before FEMA support and services can be deployed. To date, 95 trailers have been deployed across the country and 12 more are on the way (according to [this map](#)).

Past experience indicates that pet owners will refuse to evacuate if leaving their companion animals in danger is their only option. After Hurricane Katrina, the United States Congress passed the "[Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006](#)," which requires State and local emergency preparedness operational plans take into account the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals prior to, during, and following a major disaster or emergency. In 2006, New Hampshire law required emergency shelters to also shelter service animals in accordance with [RSA 21-P:37-a](#). *A detailed plan for the needs of New Hampshire individuals with household pets appears to be sorely lacking.*

AKC encourages the committee to consider two recommendations. First, fund a program manager position to work collaboratively with the state's emergency preparedness stakeholders in the identification of suitable and sufficient animal sheltering options. Individuals may be emergently sheltered at public schools or other large open areas, but sheltering unfamiliar animals together may not be appropriate. Second, these emergency evacuation efforts require a

Founded in 1884; a not-for-profit corporation

8051 Arco Corporate Drive Raleigh, NC 27617 Tel 919-816-3600 www.akc.org

Massachusetts also centrally coordinates reunification of pets with their owners after an emergency passes, rather than requiring individual owners to wholly take responsibility for reclaiming their animals. Their emergency preparedness plan reads, in relevant part, as follows:

“Coordinate resources to support animal rescue, evacuation, sheltering, and reunification.”⁹

There are states who do not handle reunification efforts however. For example, Louisiana requires that all registered animals be microchipped or photographed. After an emergency passes owners use these tools to find their animal and claim them. Owners are required to show identification and proof of ownership when reclaiming their pets. The state only supports reunification efforts as needed by individual municipalities who lack infrastructure to properly track pets via microchip or photograph.¹⁰

On the issue of what is done with unclaimed animals post emergency, states also differ. In states like Rhode Island, unclaimed pets are put up for adoption.¹¹ In other states like Tennessee unclaimed pets are “disposed of” after the emergency has subsided.¹²

⁹ Massachusetts Emergency Support Function - Animals, Agriculture & Natural Resources

¹⁰ State of Louisiana Emergency Operations Plan

¹¹ State of Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency - Emergency Support Functions

¹² Tennessee Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act of 2007

- Milton Mills (1 Shelter)
- Newport (1 Shelter)
- Pelham (3 Shelters)
- Seabrook (1 Shelter)
- Weare (1 Shelter)

3. How do other states handle the issue of pet sheltering in their emergency preparedness plans?

As previously discussed, states with an emergency preparedness plan are required to have a carve out for disabled people with service animals as prescribed by federal law. However, there are a variety of approaches that states take regarding how non-service pets are sheltered during an emergency. Requirements on what sort of measures must be taken at the state and local level on the issue of sheltering non-service pets in federal law (the PETS Act) are vague. None of the state laws, regulations or plans as of the writing of this memo require all hotels and community shelters state-wide to shelter pets with their owners.

The main area of difference between the various approaches state by state are in:

- (1) Who is responsible for making shelter arrangements (state / local emergency workers or individual citizens);
- (2) Who is responsible for reuniting sheltered animals with their owners after the emergency has passed (state / local emergency workers or individual citizens); and
- (3) What happens to unclaimed animals after an emergency passes.⁸

New Hampshire is an example of a state that places the burden of making shelter arrangements on individual citizens of the state. Other states, like our neighbor Massachusetts, make arrangements to shelter animals “in close proximity” to their owners. Massachusetts sees this as an important measure in assuring pet owners that they can visit their pets and easily be reunited with them after the emergency passes. Their emergency preparedness plan on this issue currently reads, in relevant part, as follows:

“... agencies and organizations will anticipate shelter missions and coordinate with MAESF-6 Mass Care, Emergency Housing, Human Services to identify emergency animal shelter facilities to ensure human sheltering and companion animal sheltering are in close proximity.”

Massachusetts also leaves the decision as to how many, and which animals can be sheltered to the individual municipal governments. Their emergency preparedness plan on this issue currently reads, in relevant part, as follows:

“NOTE: Each municipality remains responsible to determine what animals they are able to shelter.”

⁸ Detailed Discussion of State Emergency Planning Laws for Pets and Service Animals | Animal Legal & Historical Center

The state's emergency preparedness plan directs citizens who have non-service animal pets to do the following in relevant part during an emergency:

- **“If you plan to shelter your pet – work it into your evacuation route planning.”**
- **“Pet shelters will be filled on first come, first served basis. Call ahead and determine availability.”⁶**

The state's current policy is that individual citizens make arrangements at pet shelters for their animals during emergencies. Currently, there are 48 pet shelters across the state in the following towns: ⁷

- Atkinson (1 Shelter)
- Chichester (2 Shelters)
- Dover (1 Shelter)
- Franklin (1 Shelter)
- Gonic (1 Shelter)
- Hillsborough (1 Shelter)
- Jaffrey (1 Shelter)
- Manchester (4 Shelters)
- Nashua (2 Shelters)
- North Haverhill (1 Shelter)
- Rye (1 Shelter)
- Stratham (1 Shelter)
- Bedford (1 Shelter)
- Claremont (2 Shelters)
- Exeter (1 Shelter)
- Gilford (1 Shelter)
- Greenfield (1 Shelter)
- Hollis (1 Shelter)
- Jefferson (1 Shelter)
- Milford (1 Shelter)
- New Boston (2 Shelters)
- Northwood (1 Shelter)
- Salem (2 Shelters)
- Swanzey (1 Shelter)
- Charelstown (1 Shelter)
- Concord (1 Shelter)
- Frankestown (1 Shelter)
- Goffstown (2 Shelters)
- Hillsboro (1 Shelter)
- Hudson (2 Shelters)
- Littleton (1 Shelter)

⁶ [Pet Disaster Plan - NH Insurance Department](#)

⁷ [Pet Shelters in New Hampshire - Petshelters.org](#)

evacuate lost their lives.¹ The following year, Congress passed the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006 (PETS Act).

The act in relevant part, allows the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to:

- (1) Provide funding to states and localities for the creation, operation, and maintenance of pet-friendly emergency shelters, along with other emergency preparedness actions for companion and service animals.
- (2) Reimburse state and local governments for rescuing, caring for, and sheltering animals in an emergency.

The PETS Act also defines how states and localities can receive funds for this opt-in program. It says that emergency preparedness plans created by states and localities must “account for the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals before, during and following a major disaster or emergency.”² As of the writing of this memorandum, 30 states have adopted an emergency preparedness plan that meet this standard in various forms (statutes, administrative rules, and / or internal agency plans). Currently, none of them require that hotels and community shelters must shelter pet owners with their owners.

The only exception to this in every state’s plan is a carve out for individuals who require service animals due to a disability. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) exempts service animals from hotel and community shelter pet policies. Since this is a requirement imposed by federal law, all hotels and community shelters participating in emergency sheltering plans must accommodate disabled people with service animals in a state of emergency.³ Virtually every state with an emergency preparedness plan that addresses the issue of pet sheltering has this exception written into it.

2. What measures regarding the sheltering of pets during a state of emergency does New Hampshire currently have on the books?

RSA 21-P:37 directs the New Hampshire Department of Safety (DOS) to:

“VI. To prepare a comprehensive plan and program for the evacuation of search and rescue dogs and service animals, as defined in RSA 167-D.”⁴

RSA 21-P:37-a further defines the state’s policy on the issue of sheltering service animals:

“In cases of emergency, it shall be the policy of the state that service animals shall not be separated from the persons they serve. Every effort shall be made to keep service animals and the persons they serve together, and all appropriate state emergency planning and state sponsored emergency training shall be based on such assumptions.”⁵

¹ [The PETS Act: Companion Animals Affected by Natural Disasters \(aldf.org\)](http://www.aldf.org)

² [42 U.S. Code § 5196](#)

³ [42 U.S. Code § 12101](#)

⁴ [RSA 21-P:37](#)

⁵ [RSA 21-P:37-a](#)



HOUSE COMMITTEE RESEARCH OFFICE

**New Hampshire House of Representatives
4th Floor, Legislative Office Building
Concord, NH 03301
Tel: (603) 271-3600**

*Daniel Torrey, Committee Researcher
(603) 271-3387; Dan.Torrey@leg.state.nh.us*

**TO: Representative Howard Pearl
Chair, Environment & Agriculture Committee**

FROM: Daniel Torrey, House Environment & Agriculture Committee Researcher

DATE: January 31, 2022

SUBJ: Laws in various states regarding the sheltering of animals with their owners during a state of emergency

I. You asked whether there are laws currently on the books in various states similar to the idea proposed in HB1186, which would require both hotels and community shelters to shelter people with their companion animals in the same location.

I. **Short Answer:** A federal law passed in 2006 sought to address the issue of a lack of shelter for pets during states of emergency. In response, 30 states adopted statutes, administrative rules, or created agency plans of action to accommodate pets and their owners during states of emergency. None of them currently require that pets and their owners be sheltered together in hotels and community centers. Most of them have an exception for service animals that assist people with disabilities.

1. What actions has the federal government taken on the issue of pet sheltering?

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans Louisiana and surrounding areas. One of the issues that faced evacuation and rescue efforts in the New Orleans area, was people who refused to evacuate. Of the individuals who refused to evacuate, 44% of them did not wish to evacuate because there were no animal friendly shelters in the near vicinity. Pet owners faced the choice of evacuating and leaving their pets to die or try to survive on their own as the hurricane devastated the community. As a result, countless people who refused to

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 1186

BILL TITLE: relative to companion animals during a declared state of emergency.

DATE: 3-1-22

LOB ROOM: 307

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP
- ITL
- Retain (1st year)
- Adoption of Amendment # 2022-0727H (if offered)
- Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. Paul Seconded by Rep. VonPlesky Vote: 19-0

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP
- OTP/A
- ITL
- Retain (1st year)
- Adoption of Amendment # _____ (if offered)
- Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. Paul Seconded by Rep. Dutzey Vote: 19-0

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP
- OTP/A
- ITL
- Retain (1st year)
- Adoption of Amendment # _____ (if offered)
- Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP
- OTP/A
- ITL
- Retain (1st year)
- Adoption of Amendment # _____ (if offered)
- Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

CONSENT CALENDAR: YES NO

Minority Report? _____ Yes _____ No If yes, author, Rep: _____ Motion _____

Respectfully submitted: [Signature]
Rep Barbara Comtois, Clerk



2022 SESSION

Environment and Agriculture

Bill #: HB 1186 Motion: OTP/A AM #: _____ Exec Session Date: 3-1-22

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Pearl, Howard C. Chairman	✓		
Aron, Judy F. Vice Chairman	✓		
Comtois, Barbara Clerk	✓		
Verville, Kevin G. <u>Abrams, Pat</u>	✓		
Davis, Arnold G.	✓		
Stapleton, Walter A.	✓		
Homola, Susan	✓		
Kennedy, Margaret Anne	✓		
Mason, James L. <u>Potuck</u>	✓		
Sanborn, Gail E. <u>Berry Russ</u>	✓		
Bixby, Peter W.	✓		
Sofikitis, Catherine M.	✓		
Bouldin, Andrew J.	✓		
Dutzy, Sherry	✓		
Murray, Megan A.	✓		
Von Plinsky, Sparky	✓		
Caplan, Tony	✓		
Perez, Maria	✓		
TOTAL VOTE:			

Notting-Wong, Allison

✓
19-0



2022 SESSION

Environment and Agriculture

Bill #: _____ Motion: Adopt AM #: 2022-0727H Exec Session Date: 3-1-22

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Pearl, Howard C. Chairman	✓		
Aron, Judy F. Vice Chairman	✓		
Comtois, Barbara Clerk	✓		
Verville, Kevin G. <u>Abramci, Pat</u>	✓		
Davis, Arnold G.	✓		
Stapleton, Walter A.	✓		
Homola, Susan	✓		
Kennedy, Margaret Anne	✓		
Mason, James L. <u>Poducek, John</u>	✓		
Sanborn, Gail E. <u>Berry Ross</u>	✓		
Bixby, Peter W.	✓		
Sofikitis, Catherine M.	✓		
Bouldin, Andrew J.	✓		
Dutzy, Sherry	✓		
Murray, Megan A.	✓		
Von Plinsky, Sparky	✓		
Caplan, Tony	✓		
Perez, Maria	✓		
TOTAL VOTE:			

Nothing-Wing, Allison

✓
19- 0