

Bill 1551 sponsored by Delegate Ric Metzgar

Position on bill: Unfavorable

I am Marilyn Randall a retired breeder of Boston Terriers for many years. I am a member of the Boston Terrier Club of Maryland and Boston Terrier Club of America.

Position on bill: Unfavorable

BTCA has a Code of Ethics that members honor which does not allow indiscriminate breeding. agree to Honor. BTCA also has an active rescue committee. Should a Boston end up in a shelter we are there to rehome at our expense. We do not impact the shelter population. We are not the problem. We are responsible breeders. Should a Boston be in a shelter

Dogs clubs are dwindling. dog. The few members who are left are not breeding because of the time, energy, money, and commitment to breed to the standard. club members, especially members of dog clubs who breed; entries into dog shows in the US. Entries at dog shows are dwindling too.

Joke among our Boston breeders is "If you want to make a million, you better start out with 2 million."

Time and energy and money — a commitment to breed to the standard.

It is expensive to breed to begin with and we do it for the love of the breed. It's important to keep the prices within range of families and this bill would add to the price. For example, Bostons are expensive because; already to breed Bostons

Small litters,

Expenses such as: —breeding equipment, sperm donation, C-section, veterinary bills for puppies, tests for puppies such as eye, BAER, heart to name a few, and.

Time commitment to care for socialize the puppies.

Different breeds have been bred for certain traits. A customer bases the type of dog they want to buy depending on those traits. Examples are: guiding eyes for the blind; dogs who visit nursing homes; dogs who help veterans readjust; police dogs who help to protect us and dogs who help children deal with life.

There are so many activities that are available now for a family to get involved with their dogs. For instance, dock diving, obedience, rally, conformation, junior showmanship, Best Puppy and Meet

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the breeds. We need to keep those breed traits alive and not add to the price of a puppy from reputable breeders.

Bill 1551 hurts these types of breeders. It does not hit pet stores, puppy mills, and back yard breeders that are in it for the money.

Please hold the bill for further study. Please study the issue to better understand what is contributing to dogs being placed in Maryland shelters.

Thank you.

Marilyn Randall