

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1771

Date: 6/2/25

(Filing No. S-220)

MAJORITY
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
132ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 689, L.D. 1771, "An Act to Strengthen Oversight of Kennels by Changing the Licensing Authority from Municipalities to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry"

Amend the bill by striking out all of sections 4 and 5 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 4. 7 MRSA §3923-A, first ¶, as amended by PL 2013, c. 115, §10, is further amended to read:

Except as provided in subsection 3 and section ~~3923-C~~ 3932-B, a dog owner or keeper obtaining a license from a municipal clerk, dog licensing agent or dog recorder shall pay the license and recording fees established in this section. For purposes of this section, "dog licensing agent" means an animal shelter or a veterinarian pursuant to section 3923-F.

Sec. 5. 7 MRSA §3923-A, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2013, c. 115, §10, is further amended to read:

4. **Late fees.** An owner or keeper required to license a dog under section 3922, subsection 1 or section ~~3923-C~~ 3932-B, subsection 1 and applying for a license for that dog after January 31st shall pay to the municipal clerk, dog licensing agent or dog recorder a late fee of \$25 in addition to the annual license fee paid in accordance with subsection 1 or 2 and section ~~3923-C~~, subsection 1. The clerk, dog licensing agent or dog recorder shall deposit all late fees collected under this subsection into the municipality's animal welfare account established in accordance with section 3945.'

Amend the bill in section 11 in §3932-B in subsection 2 in the last line (page 2, line 30 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "annually." the following: 'A humane agent may conduct an inspection of a kennel in a municipality with an appointed animal control officer under specific and extenuating circumstances as determined by the department by rule. If a humane agent conducts an inspection pursuant to this subsection, the municipality shall pay for the cost of the inspection.'

Amend the bill in section 11 in §3932-B in subsection 5 in the last line (page 3, line 3 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "department." the following: 'A humane agent

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1 may conduct an inspection of a kennel in a municipality with an appointed animal control
 2 officer under specific and extenuating circumstances as determined by the department by
 3 rule. If a humane agent conducts an inspection pursuant to this subsection, the municipality
 4 shall pay for the cost of the inspection.'

5 Amend the bill in section 13 in §3935 in the indented paragraph in the 2nd line (page
 6 3, line 16 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "a person" and inserting the following: "a
 7 person an individual"

8 Amend the bill in section 13 in §3935 in the indented paragraph in the last line (page
 9 3, line 23 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "section." the following: 'An individual
 10 who submits an application to be licensed under this chapter shall submit the results of a
 11 background check to the department along with the license application.'

12 Amend the bill by inserting after section 17 the following:

13 'Sec. 18. 7 MRSA §3950-A, sub-§1, ¶E, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. B, §21
 14 and affected by Pt. X, §2, is repealed.

15 Sec. 19. 7 MRSA §3950-A, sub-§1, ¶F, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. B, §21
 16 and affected by Pt. X, §2, is amended to read:

17 F. Chapter 727; or

18 Sec. 20. 7 MRSA §3950-A, sub-§1, ¶G is enacted to read:

19 G. Chapter 723.'

20 Amend the bill by inserting after section 18 the following:

21 'Sec. 19. Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry report.
 22 The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall provide annual reports, no
 23 later than January 15th in 2026, 2027 and 2028, to the joint standing committee of the
 24 Legislature having jurisdiction over animal welfare matters on the transfer of the issuance
 25 of kennel licenses from municipalities to the department pursuant to this Act. The joint
 26 standing committee may submit legislation relating to the subject matter of the report to
 27 the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature, to the 133rd Legislature in 2027 and
 28 to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.

29 Sec. 20. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and
 30 allocations are made.

31 **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF**

32 **Animal Welfare Fund 0946**

33 Initiative: Provides allocations to allow expenditures related to the administration of the
 34 Animal Welfare Act.

35 OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
36 All Other	\$21,577	\$21,577
37		
38 OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$21,577	\$21,577

(S.220)

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Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

SUMMARY

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, clarifies that kennel licensees are not required to pay individual dog licensing fees.

The amendment clarifies that a humane agent with the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may conduct an inspection of a kennel in a municipality with an appointed animal control officer under specific and extenuating circumstances as determined by the department by rule. The amendment requires a municipality to pay for the cost of an inspection if a humane agent conducts the inspection.

The amendment requires a kennel licensee to pay for a background check, which is required to obtain a license. The amendment corrects a cross-reference in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, chapter 725 relating to municipal duties and officials' refusal or neglect of duty.

The amendment requires the department to provide annual reports, no later than January 15th in 2026, 2027 and 2028, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over animal welfare matters on the transfer of the issuance of kennel licenses from municipalities to the department. The joint standing committee may submit legislation relating to the subject matter of the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature, to the 133rd Legislature in 2027 and to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)

**132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE****LD 1771****LR 981(02)**

**An Act to Strengthen Oversight of Kennels by Changing the Licensing Authority from Municipalities
to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry**

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S. 220)
Committee: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	Projections FY 2027-28	Projections FY 2028-29
Appropriations/Allocations				
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$21,577	\$21,577	\$21,577	\$21,577
Revenue				
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$21,577	\$21,577	\$21,577	\$21,577

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill authorizes the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (ACF) to issue kennel licenses in place of municipalities. It establishes a tiered fee structure based on the number of dogs per kennel and directs the ACF to distribute 20% of the revenue collected to municipalities, with the remaining 80% deposited into the Animal Welfare Fund. Because total revenue will depend on the number and size of licensed kennels, an exact estimate is not available at this time.

The bill also increases fees on existing facility licenses. These fee increases are expected to generate \$21,577 in additional Other Special Revenue Funds revenue for the ACF beginning in fiscal year 2025-26. The bill includes a corresponding allocation to authorize expenditure of the additional revenue.