

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LD 1092

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

June 9, 1977

Senator Walter W. Hichens
Senate Chairman, Committee on Agriculture
State House
Augusta, Maine 04333


Dear Senator Hitchens:

This responds to your request for advice regarding a proposed amendment to L.D. 1092. Specifically, you ask the question whether the term "preferred" in the introductory paragraph of the amendment would be interpreted as being mandatory or simply specifying a preferred method, with other methods allowed. Generally, in interpreting statutes, words are to be given the common and usual meanings. In this case the word "preferred" would normally be interpreted to mean the favored but not the only method of euthanasia specified in the law.

In such an interpretation, however, legislative history may be important. Accordingly, we suggest that the matter either be clarified by an amendment, or that you make a statement on the floor as to the intention of the word "preferred" in this amendment.

I hope this information is helpful to you.

Sincerely,


DONALD G. ALEXANDER
Deputy Attorney General

DGA:jg