

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 378

S. P. 139

In Senate, January 27, 1971

Referred to Committee on Agriculture. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Chick of Kennebec.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

AN ACT Relating to Boarding of Dogs.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

R. S., T. 7, §3406, amended. The 2nd and 3rd sentences of section 3406 of Title 7 of the Revised Statutes, as last amended by chapter 242 of the public laws of 1969, are further amended to read as follows:

Any licensed veterinarian, humane society or shelter accepting such a sick, stray, injured or abandoned dog shall keep the same for a period of ~~to~~ 5 days and shall be entitled to receive from the State the sum of \$1.50 per day for such period or part thereof as they shall provide food and shelter, provided such licensed veterinarian, humane society or shelter shall notify the clerk of their respective municipality within 24 hours after accepting such a dog, such notice to include a detailed description of the dog and the circumstances of its finding. Upon the expiration of said ~~to~~ 5 days if the owner of the dog has not appeared to claim the same then said licensed veterinarian, humane society or shelter may give away, sell or otherwise humanely dispose of said dog.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Last year over 4600 dogs were involved in boarding at 21 shelters, 14 veterinarians and 5 humane shelters. The cost to the State was over \$63,000 or 55% of receipts for dog licenses.

Twenty-five per cent of these were placed in new homes. The remaining dogs were disposed of.

Most states with similar provisions require 3 to 5 days.

There has been a steady increase in the number of dogs involved since the start of this program. Last year's increase was 1,600 over the previous year. Additional appropriation above dog license money or an increase in dog license fees will be necessary unless some change is made.