

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1530

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H. P. 1216

House of Representatives, March 26, 1975

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Mahany of Easton.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-FIVE

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**AN ACT Concerning the Retention Period for Sick, Stray, Injured or Abandoned Dogs Brought to a Licensed Veterinarian, Humane Society or Animal Shelter.**

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

7 MRSA § 3406, as last amended by PL 1969, c. 242, is further amended to read:

**§ 3406. Dogs brought to veterinarian**

Any person finding a sick, stray, injured or abandoned dog may take the same to any licensed veterinarian, humane society or shelter within the State, who may accept the same, providing such shelter has been approved by the Commissioner of Agriculture or his agent. Any licensed veterinarian, humane society or shelter accepting such a sick, stray, injured or abandoned dog shall keep the same for a period of 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 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. No dog shall leave any boarding agency until licensed by the person accepting said dog in accordance with section 3451. Proceeds from any sale shall be deducted from any claim for board made to the State. In the event the owner of such a dog shall appear and claim the dog while still in possession of said keeper,

the owner may have and receive the same upon payment of all charges provided for in this section. All moneys paid by the State to such keepers shall be taken from the fund received from dog licenses.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill provides that the retention period for sick, stray, injured or abandoned dogs be reduced from 10 to 5 days. This will save the State approximately \$40,000 in boarding costs. Such fees are paid out of income derived from dog licenses. In recent years such income has not always been sufficient and the Department of Agriculture has had to request additional funds from the Contingency Fund. Savings under this bill will be prorated to the municipalities.