

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 677

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H. P. 560

House of Representatives, March 1, 1977

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Nadeau of Sanford.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-SEVEN

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AN ACT to Define Ownership of Canines.

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

Sec. 1. 7 MRSA § 3455, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 45, § 1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§ 3455. Dogs not to run at large

It shall be unlawful for any person owning, keeping, controlling, caring for or in possession of any dog, licensed or unlicensed, to permit the dog to run at large, except when used for hunting.

“At large” means off the premises of the person owning, keeping, controlling, caring for or in possession of the dog and not under the control of any person by means of personal presence and attention as will reasonably control the conduct of the dog.

Sec. 2. 7 MRSA § 3457, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 45, § 1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§ 3457. Penalties

Instead of seizing and impounding the dog, the officer, having jurisdiction, may prosecute the person owning, keeping, controlling, caring for or in possession of any dog running at large, and any person upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$25 nor more than \$100.

## STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to broaden the application of the laws relating to dogs running at large. The prior law only applied to the owner of such a dog. This bill would also make the law applicable to those persons who keep, control, care for or have in their possession dogs that run at large.