

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 741

H. P. 604

House of Representatives, March 8, 1977

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Rollins of Dixfield.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT Concerning the Bee Industry Law.

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

Sec. 1. 7 MRSA § 2501, 1st sentence, is amended to read:

All persons owning bees within the State shall annually notify the commissioner of the keeping of bees and the location thereof and shall forward to the commissioner for deposit with the Treasurer of State an annual license fee of 10¢ per colony for all bees in the hive on ~~May~~ June 15th of each year.

Sec. 2. 7 MRSA § 2501, is amended by adding at the end a new sentence to read:

Whoever fails to register bees as prescribed in this section, shall be fined not less than \$10 nor more than \$50 for each offense.

Sec. 3. 7 MRSA § 2502, is amended to read:

§ 2502. Disturbing bees on another's land

No person shall enter upon the land of another for the purpose of capturing, destroying or interfering with a colony or swarm of bees ~~which is already established~~ or removing honey from same, except by the consent of the owner of such land. Whoever violates any of the provisions of this section ~~or of section 2501~~ shall be punished by a fine of not less than ~~\$10~~ \$50 nor more than ~~\$50~~ \$100, for each offense.

Sec. 4. 7 MRSA § 2504, is amended to read:

§ 2504. Penalties

Any person violating chapters 503, 505 and 507 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not more than ~~\$10~~ \$50 and costs for each offense.

Sec. 5. 7 MRSA § 2551, is amended to read:

§ 2551. Bee inspectors

The commissioner shall employ one or more persons qualified by experience and knowledge in beekeeping and detection of bee diseases as inspectors of apiaries, who shall serve during the pleasure of the commissioner.

Sec. 6. 7 MRSA § 2552, is amended to read:

§ 2552. Salary

~~Qualified bee~~ Bee inspectors shall be employed on a per diem basis and shall receive necessary traveling expenses while actually engaged in the performance of their duties.

Sec. 7. 7 MRSA § 2552, is amended by adding at the end a new sentence to read:

A minimum of \$5 per hour and the current state mileage rate shall be used.

Sec. 8. 7 MRSA § 2553, is amended to read:

§ 2553. Duties

Bee inspectors shall make such inspection of the apiaries or hive locations throughout the State as the commissioner may deem necessary to determine the presence therein of bee diseases of an infectious or contagious nature.

Sec. 9. 7 MRSA § 2554, is amended to read:

§ 2554. Access to apiaries

Such inspectors shall have the authority to enter at all reasonable times upon the premises of any keeper of bees or hive locations and make such examination of the bees, equipment and appliances found thereon as he may deem necessary to determine the presence of contagious or infectious diseases.

Sec. 10. 7 MRSA § 2601, is amended to read:

§ 2601. Certificates

Any inspector shall within ~~60~~ 30 days after examination thereof issue certificates that bees or bee equipment and appliances are apparently free from disease or contamination, if so found.

Sec. 11. 7 MRSA § 2601, is amended by adding at the end a new sentence to read:

Such certificates shall be filed as follows: One copy to the commissioner, one copy to the owner and one copy to the inspector's files.

Sec. 12. 7 MRSA § 2602, is amended to read :

§ 2602. Imports to be certified

No bees or used bee equipment or appliances shall be shipped into the State without a certificate signed by a legally authorized inspector at the point of shipment **indicating destination within the State** and that they are free from any contagious or infectious disease based on actual inspection made within ~~60~~ 30 days of the date of such shipment.

Sec. 13. 7 MRSA § 2651, is repealed and the following enacted in its place :

§ 2651. Disease of bees

All bees infected with the disease known as American Foulbrood, European Foulbrood or other bee diseases together with the equipment and appliances contaminated thereby, are declared to be a danger to spreading these diseases and may be abated by a qualified state bee inspector at his discretion.

Sec. 14. 7 MRSA § 2652, is repealed and the following enacted in its place :

§ 2652. Possession thereof

It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly own or possess bees having any contagious or infectious disease, or bee equipment and appliances contaminated thereby. It shall be unlawful to sell, barter or give away bees, equipment or appliances from any apiary without a certificate of inspection from a qualified bee inspector.

Sec. 15. 7 MRSA § 3654, 1st sentence as enacted by PL 1973, c. 776, § 1, is amended to read :

Whenever any beehives, bee colonies or honey, owned and properly licensed by a resident of this State, are damaged or destroyed by wild animals, the owner may present evidence of such damage or destruction and may make complaint thereof to the mayor of a city or to one of the municipal officers of the town or plantation where such damage was done within 24 hours after he has knowledge of same.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to strengthen the existing bee industry law so that the Commissioner of Agriculture through his inspectors may better detect and control bee diseases in Maine. More realistic fines are proposed for violations.