

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 183

H. P. 151

House of Representatives, January 25, 1979

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Wood of Sanford.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT to Amend the Law Relating to the Licensing of Dogs.

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

7 MRSA § 3451, first ¶, as last amended by PL 1975, c. 293, § 4, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

Each owner or keeper of a dog at the age of 6 months or over, except dogs kept under a kennel license as provided in this section, shall, on or before June 1st, annually, or at such time as the dog becomes 6 months old, cause the dog to be licensed in the municipal clerk's office in the town where the dog is kept. The license shall state the breed, sex, color and markings of the dogs and the name and address of the owner or keeper. No city or town clerk shall issue a license for any dog until the applicant has filed with the clerk proof that the dog has been immunized against rabies and tested for heartworm in accordance with rules and regulations promulgated by the Commissioner of Human Services, provided that the requirement of immunization may be waived by the clerk under conditions set forth by the commissioner.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to require that dog owners have their dogs tested by a veterinarian for the presence of heartworm disease on an annual basis as a prerequisite to licensing their dogs. Since heartworm tests must be conducted in April or May in order to detect the disease, the deadline for licensing dogs must be changed from January 1st to June 1st.

Heartworm is transmitted and injected into a dog's bloodstream by mosquitos. It is a fatal disease unless detected through an annual blood test and treated immediately by a veterinarian.