

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (Filing No. H-361)  
109TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT" <sup>A</sup> "to H.P. 291, L.D. 388, Bill, "AN ACT to Amend the Maine Veterinary Practice Act of 1975."

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 8 and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 8. 32 MRSA §4864, sub-§5-A is enacted to read:

5-A. Mental illness. A medical finding of mental incompetency;'

Further amend the bill by striking out all of section 10 and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 10. 32 MRSA §4865-A, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 477, §4, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

5. Mental illness. A medical finding of mental incompetency;'

Further amend the bill by striking out all of section 12 and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 12. 32 MRSA §4872, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 477, §4, is amended to read:

§4872. Disposal of abandoned animals

Any veterinarian may dispose of any animal he has reason to believe has been abandoned in his establishment, provided he shall give notice of his intention to do so to the owner at his last known address by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested and shall allow a period ~~15~~ 5 days to elapse after the receipt is returned before disposing of such animal; but if the owner cannot be located at such address, the veterinarian shall give such notice by publication in a newspaper having

a circulation in the town in which such owner was last known to reside, and shall allow a period of ~~15~~ 10 days to elapse after such publication before disposing of such <sup>animals</sup> animal. The animal shall be deemed abandoned if the owner was not located by registered mail or notice by publications and did not reply in person or by mail within the time periods outlined stating his intent to claim the animal.

#### Statement of Fact

This amendment specifies what is meant by mental illness; and states the conditions more accurately under which the veterinarian may determine that an animal has been abandoned. The number of days following notice by publication was changed from the 5 days in the bill to 10 days. Present law is 15 days.

Reported by the Committee on Agriculture  
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