

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 668

H. P. 537

House of Representatives, February 21, 1979

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Sherburne of Dexter.

Cosponsor: Mr. Torrey of Poland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT to Control Brucellosis in Cattle.

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

7 MRSA § 1812, as amended by PL 1977, c. 694, § 127, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§ 1812. Brucellosis

The commissioner shall, in a manner consistent with the Administrative Procedure Act, formulate and implement rules, regulations and methods of procedure generally adopted for the prevention, control and eradication of brucellosis.

For the eradication of brucellosis, all female cattle born in the State after January 1, 1980, shall be vaccinated against brucellosis prior to 179 days of age in order to be sold for purposes other than direct slaughter. Cattle brought into the State after January 1, 1980, shall have been vaccinated against brucellosis, except in the case of calves under 90 days of age and except in the case of cattle brought in the State for direct slaughter.

For the prevention and control of brucellosis, the commissioner or his agent in charge of livestock sanitary work shall continue to conduct recognized tests on all

herds in the State. The tests shall be conducted by regularly employed federal or state veterinarians or technicians or authorized veterinarians and tested by the state laboratory. All animals showing a positive reaction to the test shall be identified by a "reactor" ear tag and brand and shall be slaughtered, except vaccinated animals under 20 months of age. Officially vaccinated calves, if purebred, shall be properly identified by ear tag or registration papers or tattoo number. Grade animals shall be tagged. All officially vaccinated calves shall be tattooed with the official state tattoo mark. All cattle brought into the State shall have been vaccinated against brucellosis prior to 179 days of age. Evidence of vaccination shall be a brucellosis ear tag or a tattoo number. Unvaccinated cattle may be brought into the State only if they are less than 179 days of age or go directly for slaughter. Vaccine for the injections shall be provided by the State or through the State from the Federal Government. Any person tampering with a vaccination identification ear tag shall be subject to a civil penalty of \$5,000 for each incident, payable to the State, to be recovered in a civil action.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill mandates that all cattle in the State be vaccinated against brucellosis. The only exceptions are young calves and animals brought in for direct slaughter. Brucellosis is a serious potential economic threat to the 18 million dollar livestock industry in Maine.