

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 46

H. P. 37

House of Representatives, January 5, 1981

Reference to the Committee on Agriculture suggested.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Drinkwater of Belfast.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

AN ACT Concerning Damage Done to Sheep by Dogs or Wild Animals.

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

Sec. 1. 7 MRSA § 3803, as enacted by PL 1979, c. 672, Pt. A, § 44, is repealed.

Sec. 2. 7 MRSA § 3804, **first sentence**, as enacted by PL 1979, c. 672, Pt. A, § 44, is amended to read:

Whenever a sheep, properly enclosed, owned by a ~~sheep producer registered under section 3803~~ **resident of this State** is killed or injured by dogs or wild animals, the owner, after locating the animal or a sufficient part of it to identify it, may make complaint thereof to the mayor of a city or to one of the municipal officers of a town or plantation where the damage was done within 24 hours after he has knowledge of the damage.

Sec. 3. 7 MRSA § 3804, **next to the last paragraph**, as enacted by PL 1979, c. 672, Pt. A, § 44, is amended to read:

~~If the claimant is duly registered under section 3803, the~~ **The** commissioner shall approve the bill or, if it seems advisable, investigate and adjust the claim.

Sec. 4. 7 MRSA § 3805, **sub-§ 1**, as enacted by PL 1979, c. 672, Pt. A, § 44, is amended to read:

1. Reimbursements. ~~Reimbursements shall be paid only to registered producers. Payments made under this chapter shall be made only to sheep~~

~~producers who have registered with the commissioner under section 3803 at least 4 months prior to the date of loss, unless the registration occurred prior to August 1, 1980. Producers Owners of sheep~~ who are otherwise eligible for dog or wild animal damage reimbursements under this subsection shall not receive such payments if they are insured for the losses with a private insurance company.

Sec. 5. 7 MRSA § 3805, sub-§ 3, as enacted by PL 1979, c. 672, Pt. A, § 44, is repealed.

Sec. 6. 7 MRSA § 3806, sub-§ 2, as enacted by PL 1979, c. 672, Pt. A, § 44, is amended to read:

2. **All other damage.** All other claims ~~filed under this chapter shall be paid from fees collected under section 3803. If these fees are insufficient, the claims~~ shall be paid from funds otherwise appropriated to the department.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to amend the law concerning damage done to sheep by dogs or wild animals in order to restore the system of state reimbursement which existed prior to 1979.