

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 329**

H. P. 266

House of Representatives, January 20, 1981

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. G. Diamond of Windham.

Cosponsor: Mr. Fitzgerald of Waterville.

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STATE OF MAINE

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

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**AN ACT to Exempt Guide Dogs from Registration Fee Requirements During the Raising Period in Foster Homes.**

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

**Sec. 1.** 7 MRSA § 3451, first ¶, first sentence, as enacted by PL 1969, c. 244, § 1, is amended to read:

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, or dogs exempt under section 3451-A, shall, on or before January 1st, annually, or at such time as such dog becomes 6 months old, cause such dog to be licensed in the municipal clerk's office in the town where such dog is kept.

**Sec. 2.** 7 MRSA § 3451-A is enacted to read:

**§ 3451-A. Guide dog shelters**

**1. Definition.** As used in this section "guide dog shelter" means any place, building, tract of land, abode or vehicle where dogs under the age of 14 months are kept prior to being sent for training as guide dogs.

**2. Exemption.** Dogs being kept at a guide dog shelter are not required to be licensed under the provisions of section 3451.

3. Shelter certification. A guide dog shelter shall register with the commissioner on a form provided by him. The commissioner shall issue a license if he is satisfied that the shelter is used only to keep dogs prior to their being sent for training as guide dogs and if he has received a fee of \$25. The license expires December 31st annually or in a manner consistent with the license provisions of the Maine Administrative Procedures Act, Title 5, chapter 375, whichever date is later.

4. Other requirements. Guide dog shelters are subject to the provisions of section 3451 which relate to entry by the commissioner, revocation or suspension of license, regulations of the commissioner and investigations and which are applicable to pet shops and boarding kennels.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The intent of this bill is to exempt guide dogs from licensing requirements while they are being temporarily kept in guide dog shelters prior to their training, which is usually done out-of-state.