

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1090

H. P. 919

House of Representatives, March 3, 1981

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Drinkwater of Belfast.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT Concerning the Transmission of Rabies by Unvaccinated Dogs.

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

7 MRSA c. 717 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 717

RABIES VACCINATION

§ 4101. Dogs; vaccination required

It is unlawful for the owner or keeper of any dog 6 months or older to keep or maintain such a dog unless it has been vaccinated by a veterinarian with anti-rabies vaccine within 24 months preceeding the date on which the dog is kept or maintained. Proof of vaccination shall be filed with the clerk of the municipality in which the dog is kept or maintained within 10 days after the vaccination or within 10 days after the dog has been brought in to the municipality. Proof of vaccination shall be affixed to the dog in an acceptable manner. Failure to file proof of vaccination or failure to produce proof of vaccination upon demand of any law enforcement officer, animal control officer or other public official authorized for these purposes, is prima facie evidence that the dog has not been vaccinated. Any person found violating this chapter commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture of not less than \$25, nor more than \$100 shall be adjudged.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to reduce the danger of rabies infection being transmitted to human beings by unvaccinated dogs which have a high degree of exposure to infected wild animals due to the fact that most dogs in rural areas are hitched out-of-doors all through the year. Even though a rabies vaccination is a requirement for dog licensing, it is only partially successful due to the fact that the municipalities are not enforcing the dog licensing law during the first 4 months and the last 3 months of the year.