

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 283

7 H.P. 236

House of Representatives, January 26, 1983

8 Received by the Clerk of the House on January 26, 1983. Referred to the
9 Committee on Agriculture, and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 14.

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Drinkwater of Belfast.
Cosponsor: Representative Stevenson of Unity.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE
16

17 AN ACT Concerning the Transmission
18 of Rabies by Unvaccinated Dogs.
19

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

22 7 MRSA §3407 is enacted to read:

23 §3407. Dogs; vaccination required

24 A person commits a civil violation if he owns or
25 keeps any dog 6 months of age or older, if such dog
26 has not been vaccinated with antirabies vaccine
27 within 24 months preceding the date on which the dog
28 is owned or kept. Proof of vaccination shall be
29 filed with the municipal clerk within 10 days after
30 the vaccination or within 10 days after the dog is
31 brought into the municipality. A filing fee of \$1
32 shall be paid to the municipal clerk if the dog is
33 not licensed in the municipality. Proof of vaccina-

1 tion shall be affixed to the dog in an acceptable
2 manner. Failure to file proof of vaccination or
3 failure to produce proof of vaccination upon demand
4 of any law enforcement officer, animal control offi-
5 cer or other public official authorized for these
6 purposes, shall be prima facie evidence that the dog
7 has not been vaccinated.

8 A forfeiture of not less than \$25, nor more than
9 \$100, shall be adjudged for a violation of this
10 section.

11 STATEMENT OF FACT

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

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