

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 SECOND REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
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5 Legislative Document

No. 2132

7 S.P. 797

In Senate, February 27, 1984

8 Approved for introduction by the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint
9 Rule 26.

10 Referred to the Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Ordered
printed and sent down for concurrence.

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Wood of York.

11 Cosponsors: Senator Bustin of Kennebec and Senator Gill of
Cumberland.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

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

17 AN ACT to Allow Elderly Persons to have
18 Pets in Public Housing.
19

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

22 22 MRSA c. 1457-B is enacted to read:

23 CHAPTER 1457-B

24 PUBLIC HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY

25 §5171. Definitions

26 As used in this chapter, unless the context indi-
27 cates otherwise, the following terms have the follow-
28 ing meanings.

29 1. Elderly. "Elderly" means a person who has:

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A. Attained the age of 62 years; or

B. Attained the age of 55 years and who is, due to disability, receiving federal disability payments, such as Supplemental Security Income.

2. Pet. "Pet" means any domesticated dog, cat or bird, or aquarium.

3. Public housing. "Public housing" means housing which is funded in whole or in part by any state or federal money, grants or programs.

§5172. Pets

Pets shall be allowed in public housing for the elderly according to the following provisions.

1. Pets allowed. An owner, manager, governmental entity or any other entity having control over any public housing shall not prohibit the keeping of a pet by any elderly resident of that housing.

2. Limitations. The owner or manager of any public housing unit may establish rules or guidelines concerning the keeping of pets by elderly persons, including, but not limited to:

A. Limitations on the number of pets which may be kept; and

B. Removal of pets which destroy or damage property not belonging to the elderly person or which pose health, safety or sanitary hazards.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to permit elderly persons living in any form of public housing to keep pets. Other states have already enacted similar provisions and have recognized beneficial results in terms of both the mental and physical well-being of elderly residents.

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