

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(After Deadline)
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 1047

H.P. 775 House of Representatives, April 1, 1987
Approved for introduction by a majority of the
Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 27.

Reference to the Committee on Agriculture suggested and
ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative TARDY of Palmyra.

STATE OF MAINE

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

1 **AN ACT to Repeal the Mandatory Brucellosis**
2 **Vaccination for Cattle.**
3

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

6 **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §1812, 2nd ¶, as amended by PL**
7 **1985, c. 545, is repealed.**

8 **Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §1812, 3rd ¶, as enacted by PL**
9 **1981, c. 197, §2, is repealed.**

1

STATEMENT OF FACT

2 Current law requires that all female cattle born
3 after January 1, 1982, must be vaccinated against
4 brucellosis. Cattle which at no time will be sold,
5 cattle which will be sold only for the purpose of im-
6 mediate slaughter and cattle which are to be shipped
7 out of state are exempt from this law. Cattle im-
8 ported into the State must be vaccinated against bru-
9 cellosis, except in the case of calves under 120 days
10 of age and except in the case of cattle brought in
11 for immediate slaughter. Many states and provinces
12 that are free of this disease discourage or do not
13 allow vaccination against brucellosis since vaccina-
14 tion makes detection of the disease difficult and
15 therefore increases the potential for spread of the
16 disease. Consequently, cattle from these areas can-
17 not be imported into the State as dairy or beef re-
18 placements. In addition, unvaccinated cattle within
19 the State cannot be sold as replacements. This bill
20 eliminates the mandatory vaccination requirement,
21 thereby allowing unvaccinated cattle to be bought and
22 sold as replacements.

23 Voluntary vaccination would not jeopardize the
24 health of the cattle in the State. This State is
25 free of brucellosis and all cattle imported into the
26 State must be tested negative for brucellosis within
27 30 days prior to importation and must be retested 45
28 to 120 days after entering the State. Therefore cat-
29 tle imported into or born in the State do not pose
30 the threat of a spread of brucellosis.

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