

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 2481

H.P. 1813 House of Representatives, March 9, 1988
Approved for introduction by a majority of the
Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26.
Reference to the Committee on Agriculture suggested and
ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative LOOK of Jonesboro.
Cosponsored by Senator BERUBE of Androscoggin.

STATE OF MAINE

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

1 AN ACT to Outlaw Pit Bull Dogs in the State.
2

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

5 7 MRS A §§3954 and 3955 are enacted to read:

6 §3954. Keeping of pit bull dog prohibited

7 It is unlawful to keep, harbor, own or in any way

1 possess a pit bull dog.

2 1. Exception. Any pit bull dog registered with
3 any municipality on the date of publication of this
4 section may be kept subject to the standards and
5 requirements set forth in section 3955.

6 2. Pit bull dog. "Pit bull dog" is defined to
7 mean:

8 A. The bull terrier breed of dog;

9 B. The Staffordshire bull terrier breed of dog;

10 C. The American pit bull terrier breed of dog;

11 D. The American Staffordshire terrier breed of
12 dog;

13 E. Dogs of mixed breeds or of breeds other than
14 those listed in this subsection, which breeds or
15 mixed breeds are known as pit bulls, pit bull dogs
16 or pit bull terriers; and

17 F. Any dog which has the appearance and
18 characteristics of being predominantly of the
19 breeds of bull terrier, Staffordshire bull
20 terrier, American pit bull terrier, American
21 Staffordshire terrier; any other breed commonly
22 known as pit bulls, pit bull dogs or pit bull
23 terriers; or a combination of any of these breeds.

24 §3955. Keeping of registered pit bulls

25 Section 3954 is not applicable to owners, keepers
26 or harborers of pit bull dogs registered on the
27 effective date of this section. The keeping of those
28 dogs shall be subject to the following standards.

29 1. Leash and muzzle. No person may permit a
30 registered pit bull dog to go outside its kennel or
31 pen unless the dog is securely leashed with a leash no
32 longer than 4 feet in length. No person may permit a
33 pit bull dog to be kept on a chain, rope or other type
34 of leash outside its kennel or pen unless a person is

1 in physical control of the leash. These dogs may not
2 be leashed to inanimate objects such as trees, posts
3 or buildings. In addition, all pit bull dogs on a
4 leash outside the animal's kennel must be muzzled by a
5 muzzling device sufficient to prevent the dog from
6 biting persons or other animals.

7 2. Confinement. All registered pit bull dogs
8 shall be securely confined indoors or in a securely
9 enclosed and locked pen or kennel, except when leashed
10 and muzzled as provided in subsection 1. The pen,
11 kennel or structure must have secure sides and a
12 secure top attached to the sides. All structures used
13 to confine registered pit bull dogs must be locked
14 with a key or combination lock when the animals are
15 within the structure. The structure must have a
16 secure bottom or floor attached to the sides of the
17 pen or the sides of the pen must be embedded in the
18 ground no less than 2 feet. The structures must be
19 adequately lighted and ventilated and kept in a clean
20 and sanitary condition.

21 3. Confinement indoors. No pit bull dog may be
22 kept on a porch, patio or in any part of a house or
23 structure that would allow the dog to exit the
24 building on its own volition. In addition, no such
25 animal may be kept in a house or structure when the
26 windows are open or when screen windows or screen
27 doors are the only obstacle preventing the dog from
28 exiting the structure.

29 4. Signs. All owners, keepers or harborers of
30 registered pit bull dogs shall within 10 days of the
31 effective date of this section display in a prominent
32 place on their premises a sign easily readable by the
33 public using the words "Beware of Dog." In addition,
34 a similar sign is required to be posted on the kennel
35 or pen of the animal.

36 5. Insurance. All owners, keepers or harborers
37 of registered pit bull dogs must, within 10 days of
38 the effective date of this section, provide proof to
39 the Animal Welfare Board of public liability insurance
40 in a single incident amount of \$50,000 for bodily
41 injury to or death of any person or persons or for

1 damage to property owned by any persons which may
2 result from the ownership, keeping or maintenance of
3 the animal. The insurance policy shall provide that
4 no cancellation of the policy will be made unless 10
5 days written notice is first given to the Animal
6 Welfare Board.

7 6. Identification photographs. All owners,
8 keepers or harborers of registered pit bull dogs must,
9 within 10 days of the effective date of this section,
10 provide 2 color photographs to the clerk of the
11 municipality where the dog is registered of the
12 registered animal in different poses clearly showing
13 the color and approximate size of the animal.

14 7. Reporting requirements. All owners, keepers or
15 harborers of registered pit bull dogs must, within 10
16 days of the incident, report the following information
17 in writing to the clerk of the municipality where the
18 dog is registered as required:

19 A. The removal from the municipality or death of
20 a registered pit bull dog;

21 B. The birth of offspring of a registered pit
22 bull dog; and

23 C. The new address of a registered pit bull dog
24 owner should the owner move within the State.

25 8. Sale or transfer of ownership prohibited. No
26 person may sell, barter or in any other way dispose of
27 a pit bull dog to any person unless the recipient
28 person resides permanently in the same household and
29 on the same premises as the registered owner of the
30 dog, except that the registered owner of a pit bull
31 dog may sell or otherwise dispose of a registered dog
32 or the offspring of the dog to persons who do not
33 reside within the State.

34 9. Animals born of registered dogs. All
35 offspring born of pit bull dogs registered within the
36 municipality must be removed from the municipality
37 within 6 weeks of the birth of the animal.

