

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 1232

S.P. 373

In Senate, February 25, 1997

An Act to Provide Relief from Barking Dogs.

Reference to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator SMALL of Sagadahoc.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §3947, first ¶,** as amended by PL 1993, c. 468,
§15, is further amended to read:

6 Each municipality shall appoint one or more animal control
8 officers whose duties are enforcement of sections 3911, 3912,
3921, 3924, 3943, 3948, 3950, 3950-A, 3950-B and 3966 to 3970,
10 responding to reports of animals suspected of having rabies in
accordance with Title 22, sections 1313 and 1313-A and such other
12 duties to control animals as the municipality may require.

14 **Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §3950-B** is enacted to read:

16 **§3950-B. Nuisance dogs**

18 **1. Municipalities to adopt ordinance.** Each municipality
shall adopt an ordinance to address the issue of nuisance dogs.
20 For purposes of this section, a "nuisance dog" means a dog that
repeatedly disturbs people by prolonged, repeated or habitual
barking, whining, crying, howling or yelping.

22 **2. Notice; fines.** Ordinances adopted pursuant to this
24 section must include:

26 **A. A process for providing notice to the dog owner in the**
form of a written complaint; and

28 **B. A system of graduated fines for subsequent violations.**

30 **All fines collected pursuant to this section are retained by the**
32 **municipality.**

34 **SUMMARY**

36 This bill directs municipalities to adopt ordinances to
38 address the problem presented by barking dogs.