

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 338

S.P. 112

In Senate, January 30, 2001

An Act to Increase Funding for Animal Welfare Programs.

Reference to the Committee on Taxation 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 KILKELLY of Lincoln.
Cosponsored by Representative BUNKER of Kossuth Township and
Senators: ABROMSON of Cumberland, KNEELAND of Aroostook, LaFOUNTAIN of York,
NUTTING of Androscoggin, Representatives: CARR of Lincoln, HALL of Bristol, McKEE
of Wayne, TRAHAN of Waldoboro.

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

2
4 Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §3906-B, sub-§2, as amended by PL 1997, c. 690, §1, is further amended to read:

6 2. **Animal Welfare Fund.** The commissioner shall deposit all
8 license fees received pursuant to chapters 721, 723, 725 and 735
10 in a separate account established by the Treasurer of State and
12 known as the Animal Welfare Fund. The Animal Welfare Fund is
14 also the repository for funds donated through an income tax
16 checkoff pursuant to Title 36, section 5284-A. This account does
not lapse, but continues from year to year. The commissioner
shall pay from the Animal Welfare Fund the expense of furnishing
blanks, stickers and tags, travel expenses and salaries for
necessary personnel, payments to animal shelters and expenses
incurred in the administration of this Part.

18 Sec. 2. 36 MRSA §5284-A is enacted to read:

20 §5284-A. Animal welfare

22 1. Animal Welfare Fund. Taxpayers who, when filing their
24 return, are entitled to a refund under this Part may designate
26 that a part of that refund be paid into the Animal Welfare Fund
28 established pursuant to Title 7, section 3906-B. A taxpayer who
30 is not entitled to a refund under this Part may contribute to the
32 Animal Welfare Fund by including with that taxpayer's return
sufficient funds to make the contribution. Each individual
income tax return form must contain a designation in
substantially the following form: "Contribution to the Animal
Welfare Fund: () \$5, () \$10, () \$25 or () Other \$."

34 2. Contributions credited to Animal Welfare Fund. The State
36 Tax Assessor shall determine annually the total amount
38 contributed pursuant to subsection 1. Prior to the beginning of
40 the next year, the State Tax Assessor shall deduct the cost of
administering the animal welfare checkoff, but not exceeding
\$5,000 annually, and report the remainder to the Treasurer of
State, who shall credit that amount to the Animal Welfare Fund,
which is established pursuant to Title 7, section 3906-B.

42
44 **SUMMARY**

46 This bill establishes a voluntary income tax checkoff to
48 earmark funds to the Animal Welfare Fund, administered by the
Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, to support
animal welfare programs and efforts of the department.