

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 661

S.P. 189

In Senate, February 13, 2001

**An Act to Make An Owner Responsible for a Person's Injuries Caused
by a Dog.**

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 GAGNON of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Representative McGOWAN of Pittsfield and
Senator LEMONT of York, Representatives: GREEN of Monmouth, SAVAGE of Buxton.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §3961**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 254, §8, is
repealed and the following enacted in its place:

6 **§3961. Reimbursement for damage done by animals**

8 **1. Injuries and damages by animal.** When an animal damages
10 a person or that person's property due to negligence of the
12 animal's owner or keeper, the owner or keeper of that animal is
liable in a civil action to the person injured for the amount of
damage done if the damage was not occasioned through the fault of
the person injured.

14 **2. Injuries by dog.** Notwithstanding subsection 1, when a
16 dog damages a person the owner or keeper of the dog is liable in
18 a civil action to the person injured for the amount of damage
done if the damage was not occasioned through the fault of the
person injured.

20
22 **SUMMARY**

24 This bill makes the owner of a dog responsible for a
26 person's injuries caused by the owner's dog damaging that person.