

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



# 120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2002

---

Legislative Document

No. 2072

---

H.P. 1567

House of Representatives, January 15, 2002

**An Act to Permit Municipalities to Protect their Citizens Against  
Dangerous Dogs.**

(AFTER DEADLINE)

---

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

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

*Millicent M. MacFarland*

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative MURPHY of Berwick.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: DAVIS of Falmouth, MacDOUGALL of North Berwick,  
PERRY of Bangor, Senator: CARPENTER of York.

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

2           **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §3907, sub-§12-D**, as amended by PL 2001, c.  
4 399, §4, is further amended to read:

6           **12-D. Dangerous dog.** "Dangerous dog" means a dog that  
8 bites an individual who is not trespassing on the dog owner's or  
keeper's premises at the time of the bite or a dog that causes a  
reasonable and prudent person who is not on the dog owner's or  
10 keeper's premises and is acting in a reasonable and nonaggressive  
manner to fear imminent bodily injury by assaulting or  
12 threatening to assault that individual or individual's domestic  
animal. The term includes any definition adopted by a  
14 municipality pursuant to section 3954. "Dangerous dog" does not  
include a dog certified by the State and used for law enforcement  
16 use.

18 For the purposes of this definition, "dog owner's or keeper's  
premises" means the residence or residences, including buildings  
20 and land and motor vehicles, belonging to the owner or keeper of  
the dog.

22           **Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §3954** is enacted to read:

24           **§3954. Local regulation**

26           A municipality may adopt or retain ordinances, laws or  
28 regulations dealing with dangerous dogs that are more stringent  
than the provisions of this chapter.

32           **SUMMARY**

34           This bill allows a municipality to adopt ordinances dealing  
with dangerous dogs that are more stringent than those provided  
36 in the statutes.