

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 1228

H.P. 902

House of Representatives, March 6, 2003

An Act To Regulate the Breeding and Sale of Guinea Pigs

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative McKEE of Wayne.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA c. 744** is enacted to read:

6 **CHAPTER 744**

8 **BREEDING AND SALE OF GUINEA PIGS**

10 **§4131. Definitions**

12 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

14 1. **Guinea pig.** "Guinea pig" means a member of the genus Cavia.

16 2. **Guinea pig breeding facility.** "Guinea pig breeding facility" means a location where guinea pigs are kept for the purpose of breeding and buying, selling or in any way exchanging for value more than 12 guinea pigs in a 12-month period.

22 **§4132. Breeding license required**

24 A person maintaining a guinea pig breeding facility must obtain a license from the department and is subject to rules adopted by the department. The license expires 12 months after the date of issuance. The fee for a guinea pig breeding facility license is \$20.

30 **§4133. Records**

32 Guinea pig breeding facilities and pet shops engaged in the buying and selling of guinea pigs shall keep a record of the buyer and seller in each sale of a guinea pig for a period of 2 years beginning on the date of sale. Upon request, these records must be available for inspection by a humane agent or law enforcement officer.

38 **§4134. Rulemaking**

40 The commission shall adopt rules to implement this chapter. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

44 **§4135. Prohibition**

46 The owner or manager of a pet shop or guinea pig breeding facility may not sell, offer for sale or give away a guinea pig under the age of 8 weeks.

2 **§4136. Violation**

4 A person who fails to comply with the provisions of this
6 chapter commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture not to
 exceed \$250 may be adjudged.

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SUMMARY

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 This bill requires a person who breeds guinea pigs to obtain
12 a license from the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural
 Resources. It requires pet shops and guinea pig breeding
14 facilities to keep sales records. It prohibits the sale of
 guinea pigs less than 8 weeks old.