

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 538

S.P. 164

In Senate, February 1, 2005

**An Act Requiring Dog Owners To Obtain Dog License Vouchers at
the Time of Obtaining Rabies and Other Immunizations**

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Joy J. O'Brien'.

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator ANDREWS of York.

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

2
4 **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §3922, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 704, §7 and PL 2003, c. 689, Pt. B, §7, is further amended to read:

6 **3. Proof of immunization.** Except as provided in subsection
8 3-A, a municipal clerk may not issue a license for a dog until
10 the applicant has filed with the clerk proof that the dog has
12 been immunized against rabies in accordance with rules adopted by
14 the Commissioner of Health and Human Services, except that the
16 requirement of immunization may be waived by the clerk under
18 conditions set forth by the Commissioner of Health and Human
20 Services.

22 A dog owner shall pay the license fee specified in section 3923-A
24 to the veterinarian who immunizes the owner's dog against
26 rabies. Unless the veterinarian serves as a dog licensing agent
28 pursuant to section 3923-F, the veterinarian shall issue the
30 owner a voucher stating that the dog owner paid the license fee
32 that the dog owner shall present to the appropriate municipal
34 clerk or unorganized territory dog recorder to obtain a dog
36 license. The veterinarian shall remit the fee to the appropriate
38 municipal clerk or unorganized territory dog recorder.

40 The commissioner shall adopt rules that allow the clerk and the
42 commissioner to accept valid proof of immunization against rabies
44 provided by another state.

46 **Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §3923-A, sub-§§1 and 2**, as amended by PL 2003,
48 c. 405, §13, are further amended to read:

1 **1. Dogs capable of producing young.** A dog owner or keeper
3 shall pay a fee of \$10 to the municipal clerk or to a
5 veterinarian for each dog 6 months of age or older and capable of
7 producing young. A dog is considered capable of producing young
9 unless certification under subsection 2 is provided.

11 The municipal clerk shall retain a \$1 recording fee and pay the
13 remaining \$9 to the department for deposit in the Animal Welfare
15 Fund.

17 **2. Dogs incapable of producing young.** A dog owner shall
19 pay a fee of \$6 to the municipal clerk ~~or~~ to a veterinary
21 licensing agent or to a veterinarian for each dog 6 months of age
23 or older and incapable of producing young. A dog is considered
25 incapable of producing young when the owner provides the
27 following:

2 A. A written certificate issued by a veterinarian stating
that the veterinarian has neutered the dog;

4 B. A written certificate issued by a veterinarian stating
6 that the veterinarian has examined the dog and determined
that the dog is incapable of producing young; or

8 C. A previous license stating that the dog is incapable of
producing young.

10 The municipal clerk shall retain a \$1 recording fee, deposit \$2
12 in the municipality's animal welfare account established in
accordance with section 3945 and pay the remaining \$3 to the
14 department for deposit in the Animal Welfare Fund.

16
SUMMARY

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20 This bill requires a dog owner to pay the dog license fee to
the veterinarian who immunizes the owner's dog against rabies.
22 The veterinarian shall issue the owner a voucher that the dog
owner shall present to the appropriate municipal clerk or
unorganized territory dog recorder to obtain a dog license. The
24 veterinarian shall remit the fee to the appropriate municipal
clerk or unorganized territory dog recorder.