

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

Legislative Document

No. 320

H.P. 253

House of Representatives, February 7, 2011

An Act To Amend Shelter Provisions To Accommodate Rotational Grazing of Livestock

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Clerk

Presented by Representative EDGECOMB of Caribou.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §4015, sub-§5**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 765, §10, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **5. Livestock.** Livestock must be provided with shelter suitable for the health of the
5 animal. ~~Livestock~~ Except as provided in subsection 5-A, livestock must have access to a
6 constructed or natural shelter that is large enough to accommodate all livestock
7 comfortably at one time. The shelter should be well drained and protect the livestock
8 from direct sun, rain, wind and other inclement weather. Notwithstanding this
9 subsection, shelter for equines must be provided in accordance with subsection 2,
10 paragraph B, subparagraph (1). For purposes of this subsection, "livestock" includes
11 large game as defined in section 1341, subsection 5 kept at a licensed commercial large
12 game shooting area as defined in section 1341, subsection 1.

13 **Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §4015, sub-§5-A** is enacted to read:

14 **5-A. Livestock maintained under a rotational grazing system.** Notwithstanding
15 subsection 5, a person is not required to provide shelter for livestock while the animals
16 are maintained under a rotational grazing system. For the purposes of this subsection,
17 "rotational grazing system" means the practice of dividing up available pasture into
18 multiple smaller areas and subsequently moving the animals from one area to another
19 after a number of days or weeks as determined by forage production.

20 **Sec. 3. 17 MRSA §1037, sub-§5**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 765, §12, is further
21 amended to read:

22 **5. Livestock.** Livestock must be provided with shelter suitable for the health of the
23 animal. ~~Livestock~~ Except as provided in subsection 5-A, livestock must have access to a
24 constructed or natural shelter that is large enough to accommodate all livestock
25 comfortably at one time. The shelter should be well drained and protect the livestock
26 from direct sun, rain, wind and other inclement weather. Notwithstanding this
27 subsection, shelter for equines must be provided in accordance with subsection 2,
28 paragraph B, subparagraph (1). For purposes of this subsection, "livestock" includes
29 large game as defined in Title 7, section 1341, subsection 5 kept at a licensed commercial
30 large game shooting area as defined in Title 7, section 1341, subsection 1.

31 **Sec. 4. 17 MRSA §1037, sub-§5-A** is enacted to read:

32 **5-A. Livestock maintained under a rotational grazing system.** Notwithstanding
33 subsection 5, a person is not required to provide shelter for livestock while the animals
34 are maintained under a rotational grazing system. For the purposes of this subsection,
35 "rotational grazing system" means the practice of dividing up available pasture into
36 multiple smaller areas and subsequently moving the animals from one area to another
37 after a number of days or weeks as determined by forage production.

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SUMMARY

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This bill exempts livestock producers from certain shelter requirements for livestock

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while they are kept under a rotational grazing system.