

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 157

H.P. 115

House of Representatives, January 19, 2017

An Act To Require the Reporting of Animal Cruelty or Neglect

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative JOHANSEN of Monticello.
Cosponsored by Senator ROSEN of Hancock and
Representatives: HANLEY of Pittston, KINNEY of Knox, MARTIN of Sinclair, PICCHIOTTI
of Fairfield, PIERCE of Dresden, RECKITT of South Portland, STEWART of Presque Isle,
TUELL of East Machias.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §4018, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 702, §18, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **1. Report by veterinarian.** ~~Except as provided in subsection 1-A, a~~ A veterinarian
5 licensed in accordance with Title 32, chapter 71-A who, while acting in a professional
6 capacity, has reasonable cause to suspect that an animal is the subject of cruelty or
7 neglect in violation of this chapter or Title 17, chapter 42 ~~may~~ shall immediately report
8 the suspected violation or cause a report to be made to the commissioner or the
9 commissioner's designee. A veterinarian making a report under this section may appear
10 and testify in a judicial or administrative proceeding concerning the condition or care of
11 the animal.

12 **Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §4018, sub-§1-A**, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 702, §19, is
13 repealed.

14 **SUMMARY**

15 This bill requires a licensed veterinarian to report to the Commissioner of
16 Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry when the veterinarian has reasonable cause to
17 suspect that an animal is the subject of cruelty or neglect. Current law requires a licensed
18 veterinarian to report only when there is suspicion of aggravated cruelty.