

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 1508

S.P. 533

In Senate, April 25, 2017

An Act To Improve Animal Control in Maine

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CHIPMAN of Cumberland.

Cosponsored by Senator: SAVIELLO of Franklin, Representatives: ACKLEY of Monmouth, BLACK of Wilton, O'NEIL of Saco.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §3910-C** is enacted to read:

3 **§3910-C. Cat licenses**

4 **1. License voluntary.** An owner of a cat may annually voluntarily license the cat
5 pursuant to this section.

6 **2. License requirements.** A cat license under this section may be obtained from a
7 municipal clerk or person authorized to issue a license listed in section 3922, subsection
8 1. The applicant shall provide the municipal clerk or authorized person:

9 A. The cat owner's name and address;

10 B. The breed, sex, color and markings of the cat, if known; and

11 C. Proof of rabies immunization, if any.

12 **3. Fee.** A cat owner shall pay a \$6 fee to the municipal clerk or authorized person
13 for each cat licensed. The municipal clerk or authorized person shall deposit the fee in
14 the municipality's animal welfare account established in accordance with section 3945.

15 **4. Termination of license.** The municipal clerk or authorized person shall terminate
16 a cat license that has not been renewed for 24 months.

17 **5. Rules.** The commissioner may adopt routine technical rules as defined in Title 5,
18 chapter 375, subchapter 2-A to carry out the purposes of this section.

19 **Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §3950-B** is enacted to read:

20 **§3950-B. Issuance of cat licenses**

21 A municipal clerk or a dog recorder in the unorganized territories shall issue a cat
22 license in accordance with section 3910-D. The clerk or dog recorder shall keep a record
23 of all cat licenses issued, including the names of the owners or keepers of cats licensed
24 and the sex, registered numbers and description of those cats except those cats covered by
25 a breeding kennel license as defined in section 3907, subsection 8-A. The clerk or dog
26 recorder shall make a monthly report to the department on a department-approved form
27 of all cat licenses issued and fees received.

28 **Sec. 3. Development of animal licensure incentives.** The Commissioner of
29 Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall, within existing resources, develop strategies
30 to encourage owners of dogs to license their dogs under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title
31 7, chapter 721 and owners of cats to license their cats under Title 7, section 3910-C. The
32 strategies may include, but are not limited to:

33 1. An advertising and public outreach campaign promoting licensure and offering
34 incentives donated by participating businesses, including coupons, rewards cards and
35 discounts for goods or services;

2. Development of an exclusive logo or certificate that may be displayed by participating businesses that actively participate in any promotional campaigns developed by the commissioner; and

3. Coordination with municipalities and other entities authorized to license dogs and cats to disseminate information, notices and flyers promoting licensure in municipal offices, on publicly accessible municipal websites and in other public buildings.

SUMMARY

This bill establishes a cat license that is optional for cat owners. This bill also directs the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to develop strategies to encourage owners of dogs and cats to license their pets, including an advertising and public outreach campaign promoting licensure; offering incentives such as coupons and rewards cards donated by participating businesses; developing an exclusive logo or certificate that may be displayed by supporting businesses; and coordinating with municipalities and other entities authorized to license dogs and cats to disseminate information, notices and flyers promoting licensure.