

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2022

Legislative Document

No. 1744

S.P. 599

In Senate, December 2, 2021

An Act To Increase Funding for the Animal Welfare Fund by Increasing Certain Fees

Submitted by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on November 30, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator DILL of Penobscot.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §714, sub-§2**, as repealed and replaced by PL 2001, c. 422, §2, is
3 amended to read:

4 **2. Fees.** The commissioner shall deposit ~~1/2~~ of the fees collected pursuant to
5 subsection 1 in the ~~General Fund~~ and ~~1/2~~ of the fees collected in the Animal Welfare Fund
6 established under section 3906-B.

7 **Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §3906-B, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 148, §2, is further
8 amended to read:

9 **2. Animal Welfare Fund.** The commissioner shall deposit all license fees received
10 pursuant to chapters 721, 723, 725 and 735 in a separate account established by the
11 Treasurer of State and known as the Animal Welfare Fund. The commissioner shall deposit
12 ~~1/2~~ of ~~the~~ feed registration fees collected under section 714, subsection 1 and revenue in
13 excess of \$100,000 from the surcharge collected under section 714, subsection 4 in the
14 Animal Welfare Fund. This account does not lapse, but continues from year to year. The
15 commissioner shall pay from the Animal Welfare Fund the expense of furnishing license
16 blanks, stickers and tags, travel expenses and salaries for necessary personnel, payments to
17 animal shelters and expenses incurred in the administration of this Part.

18 **Sec. 3. 7 MRSA §3919-C, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 439, §11, is amended
19 to read:

20 **1. Compensation for dogs and cats.** Compensation for a dog or cat is ~~\$5~~ \$15 a day.
21 Compensation for a female cat or dog with a litter that has not been weaned is ~~\$8~~ \$18 a
22 day.

23 **Sec. 4. 7 MRSA §3919-C, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 439, §11, is amended
24 to read:

25 **2. Equines.** Compensation for an equine is ~~\$10~~ \$20 a day.

26 **Sec. 5. 7 MRSA §3919-C, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 439, §11, is amended
27 to read:

28 **3. Livestock.** Except for equines, fowl and rabbits, compensation for a livestock
29 animal is between \$5 and ~~\$8~~ \$20 a day as determined by the department based on the size
30 of the animal.

31 **SUMMARY**

32 This bill increases the amount of the fees collected from registrations to distribute a
33 commercial feed in the State that is deposited in the Animal Welfare Fund from half of the
34 fees collected to all of the fees collected. It amends the animal welfare laws regarding
35 rabies prevention and shelters to increase daily compensation for animal shelters holding
36 animals pending court decisions from \$5 to \$15 for dogs and cats, from \$8 to \$18 for female
37 cats or dogs with unweaned litters and from \$10 to \$20 for equines; it also increases from
38 \$8 to \$20 the upper limit of daily compensation for holding livestock animals, excluding
39 equines, fowl and rabbits.