

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 598

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H.P. 375

House of Representatives, February 14, 2023

**An Act to Require a Vehicle Operator to Notify an Owner or Law  
Enforcement Officer of an Accident Involving a Dog, a Cat or  
Livestock**

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Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative HEPLER of Woolwich.  
Cosponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock and  
Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, LANDRY of Farmington, PLUECKER of Warren,  
STOVER of Boothbay.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2258** is enacted to read:

3 **§2258. Accidents involving cats, dogs or livestock**

4 **1. Notification.** The operator of a motor vehicle involved in an accident with a cat, a  
5 dog or livestock shall, by the quickest means available, report the accident to a law  
6 enforcement officer or to the owner or custodian of the cat, dog or livestock. For purposes  
7 of this section, “livestock” has the same meaning as in Title 7, section 81, subsection 8.

8 **2. Violation.** A person who violates this section commits a civil violation for which  
9 a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged.

10 **3. Multiple violations.** A person who violates this section after having been  
11 adjudicated as having committed 3 or more violations of this section within the previous 5-  
12 year period commits a Class E crime.

13 **SUMMARY**

14 This bill makes it a civil violation for an operator of a motor vehicle to fail to report an  
15 accident with a cat, a dog or livestock to a law enforcement officer or to the owner or  
16 custodian of the cat, dog or livestock by the quickest means available. The bill provides  
17 that a violation after 3 or more violations within the previous 5-year period is a Class E  
18 crime.