

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 1193

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S.P. 489

In Senate, March 14, 2023

### **An Act to Allow Residents of Low-income Housing to Keep Pets**

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Reference to the Committee on Labor and Housing suggested 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 CHIPMAN of Cumberland.  
Cosponsored by Representative DOUDERA of Camden and  
Representatives: HASENFUS of Readfield, RANA of Bangor, SAYRE of Kennebunk.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 14 MRSA §6014, sub-§1, ¶D** is enacted to read:

3 D. No landlord may evict a tenant from housing funded wholly or partly by the Maine  
4 State Housing Authority or the housing authority of a municipality on the basis of  
5 owning or maintaining a common household pet in adherence with Title 30-A, section  
6 4707.

7 **Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §4707** is enacted to read:

8 **§4707. Pets**

9 **1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the  
10 following terms have the following meanings.

11 A. "Common household pet" means a domesticated animal, including but not limited  
12 to a dog or cat, that is commonly kept in the home for pleasure and not commercial  
13 purposes.

14 B. "Public housing" means a residential building funded wholly or partly by the Maine  
15 State Housing Authority or by the housing authority of a municipality.

16 **2. Pets allowed.** Subject to other applicable federal law and state or local laws  
17 regarding public health, animal control and animal cruelty and rules adopted by the Maine  
18 State Housing Authority or the housing authority of a municipality, the Maine State  
19 Housing Authority, a housing authority of a municipality or other entity in control of public  
20 housing shall allow a resident of public housing to own and maintain one or more common  
21 household pets.

22 **3. Pet deposit allowed.** The Maine State Housing Authority, a housing authority of a  
23 municipality or other entity in control of public housing may charge a reasonable,  
24 refundable pet deposit for each pet to a resident of the public housing who owns one or  
25 more common household pets.

26 **4. Pet rent prohibited.** The Maine State Housing Authority, a housing authority of a  
27 municipality or other entity in control of public housing may not charge a resident of the  
28 public housing a monthly fee or other surcharge, other than the pet deposit authorized under  
29 subsection 3, for a common household pet owned and maintained by the resident.

30 **5. Reasonable conditions.** The Maine State Housing Authority, a housing authority  
31 of a municipality or other entity in control of public housing may impose reasonable  
32 conditions on the ownership of a common household pet in the public housing, including  
33 policies on nuisance behaviors, leashing requirements, limitations on the number of  
34 common household pets allowed in a unit based on the unit's size and prohibitions on  
35 dangerous or vicious animals. A reasonable condition imposed under this subsection may  
36 not include a restriction on the breed or size of the animal or a requirement that an animal  
37 be declawed or devocalized.

38 **6. Liability.** This section may not be construed to affect a landlord's liability.

39 **7. Rules.** The Maine State Housing Authority may adopt rules to implement this  
40 section. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title  
41 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

**SUMMARY**

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This bill directs the Maine State Housing Authority, a housing authority of a municipality or other entity in control of public housing to allow a resident of public housing to own and maintain one or more common household pets.