

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIFTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE.

No. 52.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND
SEVENTY-FOUR.

AN ACT to better protect sheep husbandry from destruc-
tion by dogs.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives
in Legislature assembled, as follows:*

SECTION 1. Any person or persons, having reasons
2 to believe that they have had sheep or lambs killed or
3 injured by dogs, can appeal to any justice of the
4 peace or trial justice, in town where such damage is
5 done, and demand an investigation of the matter, to
6 commence within twelve hours after notice is given, at
7 the place specified by complainant, to see if said dam-
8 age was done by dogs or otherwise.

SECT. 2. If said justice of the peace or trial justice,
2 after a hearing from parties injured, and summoning
3 not more than three persons to act as investigating

4 committee and appraisers, shall conclude that said
5 damage was done by dogs, he shall proceed to ascer-
6 tain whose dog it was that did the injury, when the
7 said appraisers will fix said damage, to be paid to-
8 gether with the necessary expenses of investigation,
9 by the person accused.

SECT. 3. In case such investigation should fail to
2 identify the dog or dogs, and affix the ownership of
3 the same, the complainant with a certificate from said
4 justice and appraisers shall receive his full damage
5 and expenses of said investigation, from the state
6 treasurer.

SECT. 4. When the investigation shall fail to prove
2 that the damage was done by dogs, the complainant
3 shall pay the expenses.

SECT. 5. This act shall take effect when approved.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
February 14, 1874. }

Reported from Committee on Agriculture, by Mr. FOSTER, and
ordered printed under the Joint Rule.

S. J. CHADBOURNE, *Clerk.*