

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sixty-Fifth Legislature.

HOUSE.

No. 312.

STATE OF MAINE.

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

AN ACT in relation to a License Fee for Dogs.

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

SECTION 1. Town assessors shall include in the tax lists
2 of their town all dogs owned by or in possession of any
3 inhabitant on the first day of each April, setting the num-
4 ber and sex thereof opposite the names of the respective
5 owners or persons in whose possession the same are found,
6 and shall assess on all dogs over four months old an
7 annual license fee of one dollar for each male, and two
8 dollars for each female dog, to be collected of such owner
9 or person in possession, in the same manner as state,
10 county and town taxes are collected.

SECT. 2. If any such license fee remains unpaid ten
2 days after it has been demanded of the person liable, by
3 the collector of taxes, said collector shall issue his warrant
4 directed to any constable of his town commanding him
5 forthwith to destroy the dog for which such license fee
6 was assessed. Any constable receiving such warrant from
7 the collector of taxes of his town shall immediately execute
8 the same by shooting, or by destroying such dog in some
9 other convenient and expeditious manner.

SECT. 3. Treasurers of towns shall keep a separate
2 account of all moneys received for such licenses, and of
3 all sums paid out therefrom. Every person suffering loss
4 or damage by reason of the worrying, maiming or killing
5 of fowls or domestic animals by a dog not his own, or in
6 his possession, may within ten days after he knows of
7 such loss or damage, present his claim therefor in writing
8 to the municipal officers of the town wherein such loss or
9 damage happen; and upon satisfactory sworn evidence of
10 the nature and extent thereof, that the claimant has used
11 due diligence to discover the owner of said dog and has
12 not been able to do so, or that the owner of said dog is
13 not financially responsible to the amount of such damage,
14 they shall approve such portion of said claim as they deem
15 just, and shall lodge it with the treasurer who shall register
16 it, and annually on the first day of March, pay the amounts
17 so approved in full, if the gross amount received by the
18 town within the year preceding for such licenses shall be
19 sufficient for that purpose; otherwise he shall apply such
20 amount *pro rata* in full discharge of such claims. If any
21 portion of said license fees shall remain unexpended as

22 aforesaid at the end of the municipal year, it shall be
23 added to the funds of the town for general purposes.

SECT. 4. The provisions of this act shall not be con-
2 strued as affecting item IV of section fifty-nine of chapter
3 three, nor section one of chapter thirty, Revised Statutes.

SECT. 5. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with
2 this act are hereby repealed.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
March 26, 1891. }

Reported by Mr. SAVAGE of Auburn, from the Joint Select Committee
on Taxation, and ordered printed under joint rules.

W. S. COTTON, *Clerk.*