

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sixty-Sixth Legislature.

SENATE.

No. 138.

STATE OF MAINE.

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

AN ACT for the better Protection of Sheep.

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

SECTION 1. Assessors of cities, towns and plantations
2 shall include in their inventories lists of all dogs owned by
3 or in possession of any inhabitant on the first day of April,
4 setting the number and sex thereof opposite the names of
5 their respective owners or persons in whose possession the
6 same are found.

SECT. 2. Every owner or keeper of a dog more than four
2 months old shall annually, before the first day of April,
3 cause it to be registered, numbered, described and licensed
4 for one year from the first day of April, in the office of the
5 clerk of the city, town or plantation where said dog is kept,
6 and shall keep around its neck a collar, distinctly marked:

7 with the owner's name and its registered number, and shall
8 pay to said clerk for a license the sum of one dollar and
9 fifteen cents for each male dog, and three dollars and fifteen
10 cents for each female dog, and a person becoming the owner or
11 keeper of a dog after the first day of April, not duly licensed,
12 shall cause it to be registered, numbered, described and
13 licensed as provided above.

SECT. 3. The clerks of cities, towns and plantations
2 shall issue said license and receive the money therefor,
3 and pay the same to the treasurer of their respective
4 cities, towns and plantations, within thirty days thereaf-
5 ter, retaining to their own use fifteen cents for each
6 license issued; and the said treasurer shall pay the money
7 so received to the State treasurer on or before Septem-
8 ber first of each year. Clerks of cities, towns and plan-
9 tations shall keep a record of all licenses issued by them,
10 with the names of the owners or keepers of dogs licensed,
11 and the sex, registered numbers and description of all
12 such dogs.

SECT. 4. Each city, town and plantation treasurer shall
2 keep an accurate and separate account of all moneys
3 received and expended by him under the provisions of this
4 act.

SECT. 5. Whoever keeps a dog contrary to the pro-
2 visions of this act shall forfeit ten dollars, five of which
3 shall be paid to the complainant and five to the treasurer
4 of the city, town or plantation in which such dog is kept.

SECT. 6. The mayor of each city, the selectmen of
2 towns and the assessors of plantations shall annually
3 within ten days from the first day of May issue a warrant
4 to one or more police officers or constables directing them
5 to proceed forthwith either to kill or cause to be killed
6 all dogs within such city, town and plantation not licensed
7 and collared according to the provisions of this act, and
8 to enter complaint against the owners or keepers thereof.
9 Such officers shall receive from the city, town or planta-
10 tion one dollar for each dog so killed. All bills for such
11 services shall be approved by the mayor of cities, and
12 municipal officers of towns and plantations.

SECT. 7. Each police officer or constable to whom the
2 warrant named in section six of this act is issued shall
3 return the same on or before the first day of July follow-
4 ing to the officer or officers issuing the same, and shall
5 state in said return the number of dogs killed and the
6 names of the owners or keepers thereof, and whether all
7 unlicensed dogs therein have been killed and the names
8 of persons against whom complaint has been made under
9 the provisions of this act.

SECT. 8. Any city or town officer who refuses or wil-
2 fully neglects to perform the duties imposed by this act
3 shall be punished by fine not less than ten dollars nor
4 exceeding fifty dollars by an action at law, the same to be
5 paid into the town treasury.

SECT. 9. When any person, resident of this State, shall
2 sustain any damage to his sheep, lambs or other domestic

3 animals by reason of their being killed or injured by
4 dogs, he shall give information thereof to the mayor of
5 cities or to one of the municipal officers of towns or
6 plantations where such damage was done within twenty-
7 four hours after he has knowledge of the same, and
8 thereupon said mayor or municipal officers shall estimate
9 the amount of such damage and all damage done by dogs
10 to sheep, lambs or other domestic animals, proved to the
11 satisfaction of the above officers, to have been committed
12 in their city, town or plantation shall be paid by said
13 officers and any city, town or plantation paying such
14 damages may maintain an action on the case against the
15 owner or keeper of such dog or dogs, to recover such
16 amount as may be adjudged to be the actual damage
17 committed.

SECT. 10. The mayor of each city and the municipal
2 officers of each town or plantation shall annually at least
3 twenty days before the first day of April, post a notice
4 in the usual place of posting notices, of their annual
5 meetings in their respective cities, towns and plantations,
6 setting forth all the requirements of this chapter with the
7 penalties for non-compliance with the same; which
8 notices shall be forwarded annually to the several cities,
9 towns and plantations by the secretary of State.

SECT. 11. Any person who shall steal or confine and
2 secrete any registered dog, or shall kill any such dog,
3 unless such killing be justifiable in the protection of per-

4 son or property, shall be liable to the owner in a civil
5 action for the full value of such dog.

SECT. 12. When any sheep, lambs or other domestic
2 animals shall have been damaged by two or more dogs at
3 the same time, kept by two or more persons, the owners
4 or keepers of such dogs shall be jointly and severally liable
5 for such damage.

SECT. 13. When any town shall have paid damages to
2 the owners of sheep, lambs or other domestic animals for
3 losses incurred from dogs, as provided in section nine of
4 this act, and are unable to identify the dog or dogs doing
5 such damage, or to collect the amount of said damages
6 from the owners of said dogs when identified, the municipi-
7 pal officers of such cities, towns and plantations shall
8 make a statement of facts in the case, together with the
9 amount of damages so paid, and shall transmit the same
10 to the State treasurer, who shall reimburse to the city,
11 town or plantation paying such damage, the amount of
12 damage so paid.

SECT. 14. All moneys received by the State treasurer
2 as provided in section three of this act, and remaining
3 unexpended at the end of the year, shall be credited to the
4 several cities, towns and plantations upon their State tax,
5 in proportion to the amount each has paid into the treasury
6 under the provisions of this act.

SECT. 15. All acts or parts of acts inconsistent with
2 this act are hereby repealed.

SECT. 16. This act shall take effect when approved.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, March 8, 1893.

Reported by Mr. WIGGIN, from Committee on Agriculture, and
laid on table to be printed under joint rules.

KENDALL M. DUNBAR, *Secretary*.