

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE

NO. 429

House of Representatives, Mar. 3, 1911.

*Reported by Mr. Libby from Committee on Agriculture, and
ordered printed under joint rules.*

C. C. HARVEY, Clerk.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND ELEVEN.

AN ACT to amend Sections eleven and thirteen of Chapter 222
of the Public Laws of 1909 relating to licensing of dogs.

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

Section 1. Section 11 of chapter 222 of the Public Laws
2 of 1909 is hereby amended by inserting after the word
3 "dogs" in the third line the words 'or wild animals.'
4 Section 11 of chapter 222 of the Public Laws of 1909 is
5 further amended by inserting after the word "dogs" in the
6 eighth line the words 'or wild animals' so that said section as
7 amended shall read as follows:

'Sect. 11. Whenever any sheep, lambs, or other domes-
9 tic animals, owned by a resident of this State are killed or
10 injured by dogs, or wild animals, such owner may make

11 complaint thereof to the mayor of the city, or to one of the
12 municipal officers of the town or plantation where such dam-
13 age was done, within seven days after he has knowledge of
14 the same, and thereupon the municipal officers shall investi-
15 gate the complaint, and if satisfied that the said damage was
16 committed by dogs or wild animals within the limits of their
17 city, town or plantation, they shall estimate the damage
18 thereof according to the full value and fifty per cent. addi-
19 tional for which they are kept, whether as breeders or for
20 other purposes, and direct that the same shall be paid from
21 the town treasury.

If the municipal officers and the owner of the sheep or
23 domestic animals are unable to agree as to the amount of
24 the damage which shall be paid the amount shall be deter-
25 mined by three referees to be selected in manner following.
26 One referee to be chosen by the municipal officers, one by
27 the owner of the animals injured or killed, and the third by
28 the two referees already selected. In case one party refuses
29 or neglects to select a referee, the other party, after thirty
30 days from the time the notice of the aforesaid damage was
31 given or received, shall select two referees, and the two se-
32 lected shall choose the third. The said referees shall sub-
33 mit a written report, signed by a majority, within fifteen days
34 from the date of their appointment, stating the amount to be
35 paid by the town. The report of said referees shall be final
36 and the expenses of the referees shall be divided equally
37 between the owner of the animals and the town, city or plan-
38 tation.

Any town paying such damages caused by dogs may main-
40 tain an action on the case against the owner or keeper of
41 such dogs to recover the amount paid, not exceeding the
42 actual damage committed and fifty per cent. additional.

Any person who keeps a dog that kills or injures sheep or
44 lambs shall be fined not less than fifty dollars nor exceeding
45 one hundred dollars and costs, unless before the final dispo-
46 sition of the case, the said owner or keeper of the said dog
47 produces satisfactory evidence that the dog has been killed.

Sect. 2. Section 13 of chapter 222 is hereby amended by
2 inserting after the word "identified" in the sixth line the
3 words 'or shall have paid such damages for losses caused
4 by wild animals,' so that the section as amended shall read
5 as follows:

'Sect. 13.. When any city, town, or plantation shall have
7 paid damages to the owners of sheep, lambs, or other do-
8 mestic animals, as provided in section eleven, for losses
9 caused by dogs, and the amount of such damages cannot be
10 collected from the owners or keepers of said dogs, or the
11 dog or dogs causing such losses cannot be identified, or
12 shall have paid such damages for losses caused by wild ani-
13 mals, the mayor of such city, or the municipal officers of said
14 town or plantation, shall forward to the State auditor a
15 statement of facts in each case, showing the amount so paid,
16 and the State shall reimburse such city, town or plantation
17 to the amount of such damage from the fund received by
18 said state under section four, and so much as may be neces-
19 sary is hereby appropriated to pay the same.'