

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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N I N E T Y - T H I R D L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 1385

H. P. 1674

House of Representatives, April 9, 1947.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-SEVEN

AN ACT Relating to the Registration and Licensing of Dogs.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 88, § 9, amended. The 6th paragraph of section 9 of chapter 88 of the revised statutes, as amended by section 3 of chapter 183 and by chapter 209, both of the public laws of 1945, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

‘All license blanks and tags shall be furnished by the commissioner of agriculture. The representatives of the department of agriculture in charge of animal husbandry shall be known as the animal husbandry specialist and the assistant animal husbandry specialist, and shall devote their time to the carrying out of the provisions of the dog licensing laws and the adjustment of claims for damages to livestock by dogs ~~and wild animals~~, and to the promotion of animal husbandry within the state. The expense of furnishing the above-mentioned blanks and tags, and the necessary clerk hire and travel, and the salary of the animal husbandry specialist and the assistant animal husbandry specialist shall be paid from the funds received from the licensing of dogs; provided, however, that money is hereby appropriated out of the dog license receipts for the purposes of this section.’

Sec. 2. R. S., c. 88, § 16, amended. The 1st paragraph of section 16 of chapter 88 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

'Whenever any sheep, lambs or other domestic animals are killed or injured by dogs ~~or wild animals~~, the owner, after locating such animal or animals or a sufficient part of each animal to identify the same, may make complaint thereof to the mayor of the city or to one of the municipal officers of the town or plantation where such damage was done within 24 hours after he has knowledge of the same, and thereupon the municipal officers shall investigate the complaint, and if satisfied that such damage was committed by dogs ~~or wild animals~~ within the limit of their city, town or plantation they shall, after viewing the evidence, estimate the value of such animals according to the purpose for which they were kept, whether as breeders or other purpose, together with damage to any other animals by being bitten, torn or chased until exhausted, and make returns on blank forms furnished by the commissioner of agriculture, which shall be made in triplicate, the original and duplicate copies together with a bill from the claimant shall be mailed to the commissioner of agriculture or his duly authorized agent, within 15 days from the date of investigation, and the triplicate shall be kept by the town clerk as his record.'

Sec. 3. R. S., c. 88, § 17, amended. Section 17 of chapter 88 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

'**Sec. 17. Damages to poultry by dogs; procedure; penalty.** Whenever any poultry owned by a resident of this state is killed or injured by dogs, ~~skunks, foxes, weasels, mink, or coons~~ such owner may make complaint thereof to the mayor of the city or to one of the municipal officers of the town or plantation where such damage was done, within 24 hours after he has knowledge of the same, and thereupon the municipal officers shall investigate the complaint and, if satisfied that the said damage was committed by dogs ~~or wild animals~~ within the limit of their city, town or plantation, they shall estimate the damage thereof according to the actual value of such poultry and make returns of their findings together with the estimated damage, in triplicate; the original and duplicate copies together with a bill from the claimant shall be mailed to the commissioner of agriculture or his duly authorized agent, within 15 days from the date of investigation, and the triplicate shall be kept by the town clerk as his record. If the poultry is kept in an unincorporated place, the owner may make complaint to the municipal officers of the nearest incorporated place, who shall investigate the complaint. The commissioner of agriculture or his duly authorized agent shall approve the bill or, if it seems advisable, investigate and adjust the claim and such adjustment by the commissioner of agriculture or his duly authorized agent shall be final in all cases. When the claim is approved by the commissioner of agriculture or his duly au-

thorized agent it shall be paid by the state to the person sustaining such damage and shall be a proper charge against the fund received by the state under the provisions of section 10.

Any person who keeps a dog that kills or injures poultry shall be subject to the same penalty as provided in section 16.'