

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 680

H. P. 1297

House of Representatives, February 11, 1949.

Referred to Committee on Inland Fisheries and Game. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Sanderson of Greene.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FORTY-NINE

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**AN ACT Relating to Damage to Rabbits by Dogs or Wild Animals.**

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

**Sec. 1. R. S., c. 88, § 16, amended.** The 1st 3 paragraphs of section 16 of chapter 88 of the revised statutes are hereby amended to read as follows:

‘Whenever any sheep, lambs, **domestic rabbits properly enclosed** 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 agri-

culture 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.

A full description of all evidence seen by the investigator shall be plainly printed or written in duplicate on all reports and recommendations, giving the number of sheep with their estimated value, **and the number of domestic rabbits properly enclosed with their estimated value** and the number of lambs, giving their ages, average liveweight, and actual estimated value, also any other information that will assist in making a fair adjustment.

If sheep, lambs, **domestic rabbits properly enclosed** or other domestic animals are kept in an unincorporated place, the owner may make complaint to the municipal officers of the nearest incorporated town adjoining, or the nearest incorporated when there is none adjoining, who shall investigate the complaint.'

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

'Any person who keeps a dog that kill or injures sheep, **rabbits** or lambs shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$100 and costs unless, before the final disposition of the case, the said owner or keeper of the said dog produces satisfactory evidence that the dog has been killed.'