

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

AS PASSED BY THE

Eighty-sixth and Eighty-seventh
Legislatures

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

From April 1, 1933, to April 6, 1935

AND MISCELLANEOUS STATE PAPERS

Published by the Secretary of State, in conjunction
with the Revisor of Statutes in accordance with the
Resolves of the Legislature approved June 28, 1820,
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AUGUSTA, MAINE
1935

PUBLIC LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

As Passed by the Eighty-Sixth Legislature

AT THE

SPECIAL SESSION, NOVEMBER 6-10

1934

Supplementary to the Public Laws of the Regular Session and Special
Sessions of November 14, and December 4-20, 1933.

Chapter 297

AN ACT for the Protection of Cattle from "Bang's Disease."

Emergency preamble. Whereas, "Bang's disease" or what is commonly known as contagious abortion has become a serious menace to the cattle industry in the state, and has seriously affected the interstate trade in dairy cattle; and

Whereas, the federal bureau of animal industry has apportioned \$19,000 to be available to the state to assist in the control of this disease; and

Whereas, immediate action is necessary to check the spread of this disease; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the legislature these facts create an emergency within the meaning of section 16 of Article XXXI of the constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, now, therefore

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

Sec. 1. Cattle may be tested for "Bang's disease." When any owner of cattle in the state shall signify in writing his willingness to place his herd under the supervision of the department of agriculture for the

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eradication of Bang's disease the commissioner of agriculture, or his agent in charge of live stock sanitary work shall have blood from the animals drawn by a competent veterinarian and tested at the state laboratory by what is known as the blood agglutination test, and all animals showing a positive reaction to this test shall be identified by a "reactor" eartag or brand, or by both eartag and brand, and shall be slaughtered. Animals showing a suspicious reaction to the blood agglutination test may be held for 60 days and retested.

Sec. 2. Indemnities. Any animal condemned for Bang's disease shall be appraised and slaughtered by direction of the commissioner of agriculture or his duly appointed agent in charge of live stock sanitary work. Such appraisal shall be made in accordance with the market value of the animal by a person designated by the department of agriculture. The indemnity shall be paid out of any funds designated for that purpose but shall not exceed \$20.00 for a grade animal or \$50.00 for a registered pure bred animal. The salvage obtained from the sale of hides and carcasses of these condemned animals shall in all cases revert to the owner. The balance of the appraisal, not exceeding the indemnity limit, shall be paid by the state.

Sec. 3. Cleaning and disinfecting. The owner shall clean and disinfect the premises, where reactors to the agglutination test for Bang's disease have been found and removed, at his own expense in accordance with instructions from the representative of the department of agriculture who shall inspect the said premises.

Sec. 4. Quarantine. If it is shown beyond a reasonable doubt that Bang's disease exists in a herd of cattle, and the owner refuses to sign an agreement placing his herd under supervision of the department of agriculture for the eradication of the disease the commissioner of agriculture or his agent in charge of live stock sanitary work shall place such premises under quarantine by written notice sent by registered mail, and no cattle shall be allowed to be removed or any additions made to the herd while it is under such quarantine.

Sec. 5. Penalty. Any person violating the aforesaid quarantine regulations shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$50.00.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency set forth in the foregoing preamble this act shall take effect when approved.

Approved November 9, 1934.