

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

AS PASSED BY THE

One Hundred and Fifth Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

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THE KNOWLTON AND MCLEARY COMPANY
FARMINGTON, MAINE
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PUBLIC LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE
AS PASSED BY THE
One Hundred and Fifth Legislature
1971

Chapter 452

AN ACT Providing Notice or Severance Pay by Employers.

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

R. S., T. 26, § 625, amended. Section 625 of Title 26 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding at the end the following:

Whenever a person, firm or corporation employing 100 or more employees, is voluntarily going out of business, he shall give one month's prior notice to his employees and failing to give such notice shall pay severance pay of one week for each full year worked by the employee, but such severance pay shall not be more than one month's pay unless by contract the employer shall have agreed to pay a larger amount. No severance pay shall be required to be paid to any employee who has worked for less than one year for the employer and no such severance pay shall be paid if the employee is discharged for a reasonable cause. An employer subject to this section may contract with his employees to pay such employees less than the severance pay required by this section.

If a person, firm or corporation sells his business and there is no cessation of employment in the establishment, no such severance pay shall be required. The requirements of this section shall not apply to any person, firm or corporation employing employees in seasonal employment only.

Effective September 23, 1971

Chapter 453

AN ACT Relating to Boarding Kennels or Pet Shops.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 7, § 3451, amended. The last 4 paragraphs of section 3451 of Title 7 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by section 4 of chapter 193 of the public laws of 1965, and as amended, are repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

The commissioner, his authorized agent, a state humane agent or a veterinarian employed by the State may, at any reasonable time, enter any boarding kennel or pet shop, excepting any building used for human habitation heretofore recognized as not subject to search warrant and make examination and conduct any recognized test for the existence of any contagious or infectious diseases or conditions. A veterinarian employed by the State or any licensed veterinarian may quarantine such pet shop or boarding kennel in person or by registered mail, and such quarantine shall be maintained as long as the Commissioner of Agriculture deems necessary.

The commissioner may revoke or suspend a pet shop or boarding kennel license providing any person, firm or corporation maintaining such pet shop or boarding kennel violates any quarantine or maintains animals or birds

contrary to the rules and regulations promulgated by the commissioner or fails to keep records required by the commissioner.

Any person, firm or corporation aggrieved by any order under this section may, by petition, appeal within 30 days to the Superior Court where said person resides, or where the firm or corporation is located. Such petition shall, in substance, state the findings by the commissioner and the grounds of appeal, and said court shall consider said proceedings de novo and the parties thereto shall have right of exception and appeal as in civil matters.

Humane societies' shelters and shelters approved by the commissioner under section 3406 shall be exempt from the licensing provisions of this section, but shall be subject to any rules and regulations promulgated by the commissioner as to sanitation, enclosure, records, health requirements and such other procedures as he may deem necessary.

Upon written complaint made to the Commissioner of Agriculture by any person, firm or corporation, alleging violation of this section, or any of the rules and regulations pursuant thereto by any licensee, the Commissioner of Agriculture shall cause an investigation to be made upon matters related in said complaint.

Any person, firm or corporation maintaining a pet shop or boarding kennel without having obtained a license for the same, or after any license has been revoked or suspended, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$50 per day.

Sec. 2. **Effective date.** This Act shall become effective January 1, 1972.

Effective January 1, 1972

Chapter 454

AN ACT Relating to Municipal Regulation of Land Subdivisions.

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

R. S., T. 30, § 4956, repealed and replaced. Section 4956 of Title 30 of the Revised Statutes, as amended, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

§ 4956. Land subdivisions

1. **Defined.** A subdivision shall be the division of a tract or parcel of land into 3 or more lots for the purpose of sale, development or building.

2. **Local regulation.** When a municipality has established a planning board, agency or office, such board, agency or office may adopt regulations governing subdivisions which shall control until superseded by provisions adopted by the legislative body of the municipality. Where a municipality has not established a planning board, agency or office, the municipal officers may adopt subdivision regulations which shall control until superseded by provisions adopted by the legislative body of the municipality.