

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

January 3, 1979 to June 15, 1979

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Augusta, Maine
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Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, under the present law the county tax must be apportioned upon the towns in the month of March; and

Whereas, approval of the county budgets has been delayed; and

Whereas, the following extension of time will prevent undue hardship in resolving such; and

Whereas, the following legislation to temporarily change the apportionment to the months of March, April or May is vitally necessary to prevent undue hardship and confusion of the several counties and municipalities of the State; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning 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:

30 MRSA § 254-B, as last amended by PL 1977, c. 670, is further amended to read:

§ 254-B. Temporary extension

Notwithstanding the provisions of section 254, when a county tax is authorized, for the year ~~1978~~ **1979**, the county commissioners shall, in the months of March ~~and~~, **April or May** apportion the tax upon the towns and other places according to the last state valuation and fix the time for the payment of the same, which shall not be earlier than the first day of the following September.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.

Effective April 20, 1979

CHAPTER 120

H. P. 119 — L. D. 129

AN ACT Concerning Cruelty to Animals.

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

17-A MRSA § 510, sub-§ 1, ¶ B, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 499, § 1, is amended to read:

B. He overworks, tortures, **torments**, abandons, gives poison to, cruelly beats or mutilates any animal, or exposes a poison with the intent that it be taken by an animal;

Effective September 14, 1979

CHAPTER 121

H. P. 77 — L. D. 85

AN ACT Concerning Euthanasia of a Sick or Injured Dog Brought to a Veterinarian, to a Humane Society or to a Shelter.

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

7 MRSA § 3406, as last amended by PL 1969, c. 242, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§ 3406. Dogs brought to veterinarian

1. Normal procedure. Any person finding a sick, stray, injured or abandoned dog may take that dog to any licensed veterinarian, humane society or shelter within the State and the veterinarian, humane society or shelter may accept the dog, providing the shelter has been approved by the Commissioner of Agriculture or his agent. Any licensed veterinarian, humane society or shelter accepting a sick, stray, injured or abandoned dog shall keep that dog for a period of 10 days and shall be entitled to receive from the State the sum of \$1.50 per day for the period or part thereof for which food and shelter are furnished for that dog, provided that the licensed veterinarian, humane society or shelter shall notify the clerk of the respective municipality within 24 hours after accepting the dog. The notice shall include a detailed description of the dog and the circumstances of its finding. Upon the expiration of the 10 days, if the owner of the dog has not appeared to claim the dog, then the licensed veterinarian, humane society or shelter may give away, sell or otherwise humanely dispose of the dog. No dog shall leave any boarding agency until licensed by the person accepting the dog in accordance with section 3451. Proceeds from any sale shall be deducted from any claim for board made to the State. In the event the owner of the dog shall appear and claim the dog while still in possession of the keeper, the owner may have and receive the dog upon payment of all charges provided for in this subsection. All moneys paid by the State to the keepers shall be taken from the fund received from dog licenses.