

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

STATE OF MAINE
130TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

December 2021

STAFF:

KAREN S. NADEAU, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670
<http://legislature.maine.gov/opla/>

MEMBERS:

SEN. JAMES F. DILL, CHAIR
SEN. RUSSELL BLACK
SEN. CHLOE MAXMIN

REP. MAGGIE O'NEIL, CHAIR
REP. SUE BERNARD
REP. JEFFERY GIFFORD
REP. RANDY HALL
REP. SCOTT LANDRY
REP. DAVID MCCREA
REP. LAURIE OSHER
REP. BILL PLUECKER
REP. THOMAS SKOLFIELD
REP. JOSEPH UNDERWOOD

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND
FORESTRY**

**LD 95 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To
Establish a Right to Food**

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Constitutional Resolution 2021, chapter 1 proposes to amend Article 1 of the Constitution of Maine to add a new provision to provide that all individuals have a natural, inherent and unalienable right to food, including the right to save and exchange seeds and the right to grow, raise, harvest, produce and consume the food of their own choosing for their own nourishment, sustenance, bodily health and well-being, as long as an individual does not commit trespassing, theft, poaching or other abuses of private property rights, public lands or natural resources in the harvesting, production or acquisition of food.

Constitutional Resolution 2021, chapter 1 as finally passed by the Legislature is subject to ratification at a statewide election to be held in November of 2021.

LD 103 An Act To Improve the Animal Welfare Laws

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 99 amends the laws pertaining to agriculture and animals.

1. The law allows the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to employ any person considered necessary to assist in any response to a natural or man-made disaster affecting animals both in the State and outside the State and provides for such a person's compensation. It also establishes reporting requirements regarding such a disaster response.
2. The law allows the Animal Welfare Advisory Council to have as a member a person who is a pet food supplier and an attorney with experience in the state court system and further provides that, if appointed, the attorney must have prosecutorial experience in the state court system.
3. The law changes the rabies vaccination requirement to provide that an owner or keeper of a dog over three months of age must have the dog vaccinated. The law also provides that the owner or keeper of a dog, within 30 days after the dog attains the age of three months, is required to have that dog vaccinated against rabies. Current law provides that an owner or keeper of a cat is exempt from the rabies vaccination requirement if a medical reason exists that precludes the vaccination of the cat. The law provides that an owner or keeper of a dog is also exempt from the rabies vaccination requirement if a medical reason exists that precludes the vaccination of the dog.
4. The law adds dangerous dogs and nuisance dogs to those animals that are excluded from obtaining dog licenses through the Internet licensing project.
5. The law provides for the revocation of animal control officer certification if the officer refuses or intentionally fails to perform the officer's statutory duties.

ENACTED LAW SUMMARIES

130TH FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS – 2021

Page 4 of 12