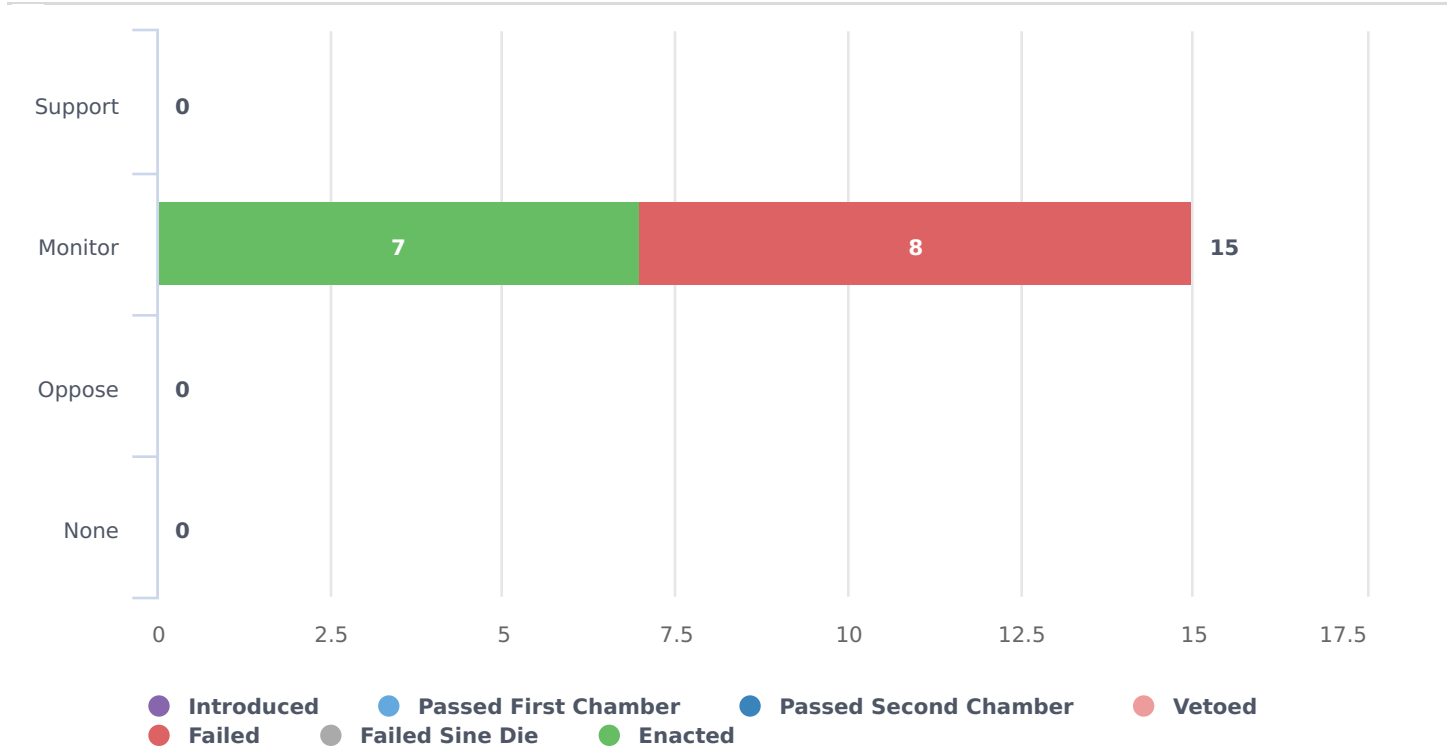


Maine - 2024 Legislative Overview

Last Updated: April 16, 2024

Bills by Last Status and Position



Bill State: ME (15)

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
ME	LD 57 (HP 32)	Signed By The Governor 2023 05 08	Enacted
Title An Act to Amend Maine's Endangered and Threatened Species List		Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 3, 2023, 4:12 PM (LD 57) Amends Title 12 (Conservation), Part 13 (Inland Fisheries & Wildlife), Subpart 4 (Fish & Wildlife), Chapter 925 (Fish & Wildlife Management and Research), Subchapter 3 (Endangered Species Management and Research), Section 12803 (Designation of Endangered Species) of Maine Revised Statutes to removed the box turtle from the State's endangered species list and to make certain taxonomic nomenclature changes. Repeals subsection 3.F. thus removing the Box turtle (<i>Terrapene carolina</i>) from the State's endangered species list.	
Primary Sponsors Jim Dill		Introduction Date: 2023-01-04	

State ME	Bill Number LD 157 (HP 98)	Last Action Pursuant To Joint Rule 310 3 Placed In Legislative Files Dead 2023 03 02	Status Failed
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Title
Resolve, to Improve Standards for Animal Rescue Entities

Primary Sponsors
Chad Perkins

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 11, 2023, 11:19 PM
(LD 157) Resolution requiring the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to adopt rules that set standards for animal rescue entities. Provides that the Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry shall adopt rules that set standards for animal rescue entities, including but not limited to rescue dog operations, that specify staff-to-animal ratios and that govern animals that are returned multiple times and resold or placed in multiple homes.

Introduction Date: 2023-01-17

State ME	Bill Number LD 290 (HP 188)	Last Action Placed In Legislative Files Dead 2023 06 07	Status Failed
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Title
An Act to Amend the Maine Insurance Code as It Relates to Pet Insurance

Primary Sponsors
Josh Morris

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 26, 2023, 7:15 PM
(LD 290) Amends Title 24-A (Maine Insurance Code), Chapter 44 (Pet Insurance), Section 3156 (Policy Conditions) of Maine Revised Statutes by adding a new Subsection 2-A (Effectuation Date) to permit a pet insurance provider to determine a policy effectuation date upon approval of the application for insurance. Provides that an insurer may determine the pet insurance policy effectuation date on approval of an application for pet insurance. Provides that the insurer shall clearly disclose the effectuation date and may not charge a premium before the effectuation date.

Introduction Date: 2023-01-31

State ME	Bill Number LD 425 (HP 258)	Last Action Placed In Legislative Files Dead 2023 04 05	Status Failed
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Title
An Act to Lower the Environmental Impact of Consumers, Increase Food Safety and Strengthen Consumer Choice by Ending the Ban on Single-use Plastic Shopping Bags

Primary Sponsors
Chad Perkins

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Feb 21, 2023, 11:02 PM
(LD 425) Amends Title 38 (Waters & Navigation), Chapter 16 (Sale of Consumer Products Affecting the Environment), Section 1605-A (Plastic Bags) of Maine Revised Statutes to repeal the law restricting the use of single-use carry-out plastic bags by retail stores. Current statute allows a retailer to use plastic bags to bag products at the point of retail sale if the retailer locates inside the store or within 20 feet of the main entrance to the store a receptacle for collecting any used plastic bags and ensures that the plastic bags collected are recycled or delivered to a person engaged in recycling plastics. Current statute also stipulates that a retailer may provide customers with plastic bags, paper bags or reusable bags at the point of retail sale and may allow customers to use their own reusable bags at the point of retail sale.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-02

State ME	Bill Number LD 572 (HP 367)	Last Action Placed In Legislative Files Dead 2023 04 25	Status Failed
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Title
An Act to Remove the 5 Cent Fee for Bags in Retail Stores

Primary Sponsors
Michael Lemelin

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Feb 10, 2023, 7:24 PM
(LD 572) Amends Title 38 (Waters & Navigation), Chapter 16 (Sale of Consumer Products Affecting the Environment), Section 1611 (Plastic Bag Reduction) of Maine Revised Statutes to remove the 5 cent fee currently required when a retail establishment provides a recycled paper bag or a reusable bag made of plastic to bag products at the point of sale. Strikes the 5 cent fee required when a retail establishment provides a recycled paper bag or a reusable bag made of plastic to bag products at the point of sale (5 cent fee was imposed beginning January 1, 2021.)

Introduction Date: 2023-02-14

State ME	Bill Number LD 598 (HP 375)	Last Action Became Law Without Governors Signature 2023 06 25	Status Enacted
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Title
An Act to Require a Vehicle Operator to Notify an Owner or Law Enforcement Officer of an Accident Involving a Dog, a Cat or Livestock

Primary Sponsors
Allison Hepler

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Feb 15, 2023, 7:13 PM
(LD 598) Amends Title 29-A (Motor Vehicles & Traffic), Chapter 19 (Operation), Subchapter 3 (Accident & Theft Reports) of Maine Revised Statutes Annotated by adding a new Section 2258 (Accidents involving cats, dogs or livestock) to require a vehicle operator to notify an owner or law enforcement officer of an accident involving a dog, a cat or livestock. Provides that it is a civil violation for an operator of a motor vehicle to fail to report an accident with a cat, a dog or livestock to a law enforcement officer or to the owner or custodian of the cat, dog or livestock by the quickest means available. Provides that a violation after 3 or more violations within the previous 5-year period is a Class E crime.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-14

State ME	Bill Number LD 679 (HP 448)	Last Action Became Law Without Governors Signature 2023 06 28	Status Enacted
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Title
An Act Regarding Animals Abandoned by Tenants

Primary Sponsors
Jan Dodge

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jun 28, 2023, 5:48 PM
(LD 679) Amends Title 14 (Court Procedure - Civil), Chapter 709 (Entry & Detainer), Subchapter 1 (Residential Landlords & Tenants) of Maine Revised Statutes by adding a new Section 6025-A (Access to Care for Animals) to provide for retrieval and disposition of animals from rental units. Provides that a landlord may require a tenant to provide information about any animal present in a rental unit and request contact information of a person the tenant authorizes to enter the property to retrieve or care for the animal in the event the tenant abandons the animal or is unable to care for the animal as a result of death or disability. Allows the landlord to require permission, as a condition of tenancy, to enter the rental unit in an emergency in order to determine whether the animal is in need of care and establishes a process through which the landlord may remove an animal in the event the animal has been abandoned or the tenant is unable to care for the animal due to death or disability. Provides that an emergency when the welfare of an animal is at risk is grounds for permitting entry without 24 hours' notice.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-16

State ME	Bill Number LD 688 (HP 457)	Last Action Signed By The Governor 2023 06 01	Status Enacted
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Title
An Act to Protect Access to Veterinary Care by Prohibiting Noncompete Agreements

Primary Sponsors
Jess Fay

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Feb 16, 2023, 3:48 PM
(LD 688) Amends Title 26 (Labor & Industry), Chapter 7 (Employment Practices), Subchapter 1 (Conditions for Employment), Section 599-A (Noncompete Agreements) of Maine Revised Statutes by adding a new Subsection 3 (Prohibited for Certain Workers) to protect access to veterinary care by prohibiting noncompete agreements. Prohibits an employer from requiring or permitting an employee who is a licensed veterinarian to enter into a noncompete agreement unless the employee has an ownership interest in the business and provides that a court may not enforce such a noncompete agreement entered into prior to the effective date of this legislation.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-16

State ME	Bill Number LD 1266 (HP 814)	Last Action Became Law Without Governors Signature 2023 06 18	Status Enacted
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Title
An Act to Clarify the Producer Licensure Required to Act as a Pet Insurance Producer

Primary Sponsors
Josh Morris

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jun 21, 2023, 12:18 PM
(LD 1266) Amends Title 24 (Maine Insurance Code), Chapter 44 (Pet Insurance), Section 3158 (Insurance Producer Requirements) of Maine Revised Statutes by adding a new Subsection 3 (Licens) to clarify the producer licensure required to act as a pet insurance producer. Provides that a person licensed in any of the following lines of authority may sell, solicit and negotiate pet insurance: (1) Property; (2) Accident and health or sickness; or (3) Personal lines.

Introduction Date: 2023-03-21

State ME	Bill Number LD 2156 (HP 1380)	Last Action Became Law Without Governors Signature 2024 04 02	Status Enacted
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Title
An Act to Authorize the Provision of Emergency Medical Treatment for Certain Dogs

Primary Sponsors
Jess Fay

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Apr 4, 2024, 1:14 PM
(LD 2156) Amends Title 32 (Professions & Occupations), Chapter 2-B (Maine Emergency Medical Services Act of 1982), Section 85 (Emergency Medical Persons) and Chapter 71-A (Maine Veterinary Practice Act of 1975), Section 4860 (License Required) of Maine Revised Statutes Annotated to authorize the provision of emergency medical treatment to certain dogs. Establishes an exception to the laws governing the licensing of a person in the practice of veterinary medicine for emergency medical services persons providing emergency medical treatment to certain dogs in accordance with protocols adopted by the Medical Direction and Practices Board. Provides that, when adopting or amending any protocols related to providing emergency medical treatment pursuant to Section 85, subsection 9, the Medical Direction and Practices Board shall consult with an individual with expertise in emergency veterinary medicine designated by the State Board of Veterinary Medicine.

Introduction Date: 2024-01-03

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
ME	LD 242 (SP 108)	Pursuant To Joint Rule 310 3 Placed In Legislative Files Dead 2023 05 18	Failed

Title

An Act to Clarify That Animal Health Products Are Exempt from the Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Reporting Law

Primary Sponsors

Joe Baldacci

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 18, 2023, 10:50 PM

(LD 242) Amends Title 38 (Waters & Navigation), Chapter 16 (Sale of Products Affecting the Environment), Section 1614 (Products Containing PFAS) to clarify that animal health products are exempt from the Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Reporting Law. Provides that certain health products intended for animals that are regulated under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, the federal Virus-Serum-Toxin Act or the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act are exempt from the notification requirements that generally apply to products containing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Current statute provides that, beginning January 1, 2023, a manufacturer of a product for sale in the State that contains intentionally added PFAS shall submit to the department a written notification that includes: (1) A brief description of the product; (2) The purpose for which PFAS are used in the product, including in any product components; (3) The amount of each of the PFAS, identified by its chemical abstracts service registry number, in the product, reported as an exact quantity determined using commercially available analytical methods or as falling within a range approved for reporting purposes by the department; (4) The name and address of the manufacturer, and the name, address and phone number of a contact person for the manufacturer; and (5) Any additional information established by the department by rule as necessary to implement the requirements of this section.

Introduction Date: 2023-01-24

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
ME	LD 595 (SP 263)	Signed By The Governor 2023 07 31	Enacted

Title

An Act to Establish the Companion Animal Sterilization Program in the Maine Revised Statutes

Primary Sponsors

Teresa Pierce

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Feb 13, 2023, 1:48 PM

(LD 595) Amends Title 7 (Agriculture & Animals), Part 9 (Animal Welfare), Chapter 717 (Animal Welfare Act), Section 3910-B (Companion Animal Sterilization Fund) of Maine Revised Statutes Annotated to require the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry to adopt major substantive rules to administer the Companion Animal Sterilization Fund. The Companion Animal Sterilization Fund, established in 2021 (SB 644), provides that money deposited in the fund and the earnings on that money remain in the fund to be used for the spaying or neutering of companion animals owned by persons meeting income limit standards and for the spaying or neutering of a feral cat regardless of a person's income and for the necessary direct administrative and personnel costs associated with the management of the fund. Money deposited into the fund is sourced from: 1) The Companion Animal Sterilization Voluntary Checkoff; 2) Pet shop license fee surcharges; and 3) Pet food product registration fees.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-14

State ME	Bill Number LD 888 (SP 379)	Last Action Pursuant To Joint Rule 310 3 Placed In Legislative Files Dead 2023 04 25	Status Failed
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Title
An Act to Allow Use of Courthouse Facility Dogs by Criminal Justice Agencies for Criminal Justice Purposes

Primary Sponsors
Troy Jackson

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Feb 26, 2023, 7:23 PM
(LD 888) Amends Title 15 (Court Procedure-Criminal), Part 1 (Criminal Procedure Generally), Chapter 17 (Miscellaneous Provisions) of ME Revised Statutes Annotated by adding a new Section 458 (Courthouse Facility Dogs) to provide a system to allow a trained dog to accompany a witness in courtroom appearances and other interactions where criminal justice is administered. Provides that in order to be a courthouse facility dog, a dog must be at least 2 years of age and: (1) Have graduated from an assistance dog organization training program; or (2) Be certified by an independent professional dog trainer. Provides requirements for: (1) Courthouse facility dog handlers; (2) Courthouse facility dog teams; (3) Access to criminal justice agency premises; and (4) Access to courtrooms during proceedings. For purposes of this section: "Courthouse facility dog" means a dog that is handled to do specific, skilled tasks to provide support to a vulnerable witness in the physical spaces of a criminal justice agency. "Courthouse facility dog handler" means a person who handles a courthouse facility dog to provide a calming influence on a vulnerable witness during the investigation and prosecution of a crime or other legal proceeding and to provide a comforting presence in those situations. "Independent professional dog trainer" means a private dog trainer who provides dog training and dog handler training and who has been approved to be an evaluator of a nationally recognized dog obedience program, which may include the American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizen, Community Canine and Urban Canine Good Citizen programs.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-28

State ME	Bill Number LD 1193 (SP 489)	Last Action Placed In The Legislative Files Dead 2023 06 12	Status Failed
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Title
An Act to Allow Residents of Low-income Housing to Keep Pets

Primary Sponsors
Ben Chipman

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 14, 2023, 4:44 PM
Amends Title 30-A (Municipalities & Counties), Subpart 8 (Development), Chapter 201 (Housing Authority), Subchapter 1 (General Provisions) of Maine Revised Statutes Annotated by adding a new Section 4707 (Pets) to direct the Maine State Housing Authority, a housing authority of a municipality or other entity in control of public housing to allow a resident of public housing to own and maintain one or more common household pets. Provides that, subject to other applicable federal law and state or local laws regarding public health, animal control and animal cruelty and rules adopted by the Maine State Housing Authority or the housing authority of a municipality, the Maine State Housing Authority, a housing authority of a municipality or other entity in control of public housing shall allow a resident of public housing to own and maintain one or more common household pets. Provides that the Maine State Housing Authority, a housing authority of a municipality or other entity in control of public housing may not charge a resident of the public housing a monthly fee or other surcharge, other than a reasonable, refundable pet deposit, for a common household pet owned and maintained by the resident. For purposes of this section: "Common household pet" means a domesticated animal, including but not limited to a dog or cat, that is commonly kept in the home for pleasure and not commercial purposes.

Introduction Date: 2023-03-16

Title

An Act to Create the Animal Cruelty Task Force

Primary Sponsors

Matt Harrington

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 21, 2023, 7:49 PM

Amends Titles 5 (Administrative Procedures & Services), Chapter 379 (Boards, Commissions, Committees and Similar Organizations) and 7 (Agriculture & Animals), Part 9 (Animal Welfare), Chapter 717 (Animal Welfare Act) to establish the Animal Cruelty Task Force to provide a coalition of trained professionals to assist with and enhance the enforcement of animal cruelty laws. Provides that the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry shall appoint the members of the Animal Cruelty Task Force. Provides that members must include at least the following: (1) One member who is an animal control officer; (2) One member who is a humane agent; (3) One member representing a statewide association of chiefs of police; (4) One member representing a statewide association of sheriffs; (5) One member who is a district attorney; (6) One member representing the judicial branch; (7) One member representing the Maine Municipal Association; (8) One member representing the Maine Fire Chiefs Association; (9) One member who is a licensed clinical social worker as defined in Title 32, section 7001-A, subsection 6; (10) One member who is a veterinarian licensed to practice in the State; (11) One member representing an animal shelter licensed in accordance with chapter 723; and (12) One member with experience responding to large-scale animal cruelty cases and natural disasters. Included in the power and duties of the task force: (1) Provide guidance and support for animal cruelty cases that involve a large number of animals, involve safety concerns or are complex in nature; (2) Recommend measures to streamline reporting of animal cruelty to local law enforcement agencies for immediate documentation and assessment; and (3) Review the handling of prior large-scale animal cruelty cases to identify and recommend ways to improve investigation and enforcement.

Introduction Date: 2023-03-21