

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

## **An Act To Simplify Dog Licensure By Establishing a 3-year License**

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

**Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §3922, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2003, c. 405, §§10 to 12, is further amended to read:

**1. License; January 1st.** Each~~Except as provided in subsection 2-A,~~ each owner or keeper of a dog at the age of 6 months or more, on or before January 1st of each year, shall obtain a license:

- A. From the clerk of the municipality where the dog is kept;
- B. From the dog recorder in the unorganized territory where the dog is kept or, in the absence of a duly authorized dog recorder, from a dog recorder in the nearest municipality or unorganized territory in the same county where the dog is kept;
- C. From a veterinary licensing agent in accordance with section 3923-F; or
- D. From the department using the Internet in accordance with section 3923-G.

**Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §3922, sub-§2-A** is enacted to read:

**2-A. Three-year license.** An owner or a keeper of a dog 6 months of age or older that has been vaccinated with a 3-year rabies vaccine during the calendar year prior to the year for which licensure is sought may obtain a 3-year license. Under this subsection, the owner or keeper of a dog may obtain a 3-year license:

- A. From the clerk of the municipality where the dog is kept;
- B. From the dog recorder in the unorganized territory where the dog is kept or, in the absence of a duly authorized dog recorder, from a dog recorder in the nearest municipality or unorganized territory in the same county where the dog is kept;
- C. From a veterinary licensing agent in accordance with section 3923-F; or
- D. From the department using the Internet in accordance with section 3923-G.

**Sec. 3. 7 MRSA §3923-A, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 439, §15, is further amended to read:

**1. Dogs capable of producing young.** A dog owner or keeper shall pay a fee of \$11, or \$33 for a 3-year license as provided in section 3922, subsection 2-A, to the municipal clerk for each dog 6 months of age or older and capable of producing young. A dog is considered capable of producing young unless certification under subsection 2 is provided.

The municipal clerk shall retain a \$1 recording fee and pay the ~~remaining \$10~~remainder of the fee to the department for deposit in the Animal Welfare Fund.

**Sec. 4. 7 MRSA §3923-A, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2003, c. 405, §13, is further amended to read:

**2. Dogs incapable of producing young.** A dog owner shall pay a fee of \$6, or \$18 for a 3-year license as provided in section 3922, subsection 2-A, to the municipal clerk or to a veterinary licensing agent for each dog 6 months of age or older and incapable of producing young. A dog is considered incapable of producing young when the owner provides the following:

- A. A written certificate issued by a veterinarian stating that the veterinarian has neutered the dog;
- B. A written certificate issued by a veterinarian stating that the veterinarian has examined the dog and determined that the dog is incapable of producing young; or
- C. A previous license stating that the dog is incapable of producing young.

The municipal clerk shall retain a \$1 recording fee, deposit \$2 in the municipality's animal welfare account established in accordance with section 3945 and pay the ~~remaining \$3~~remainder of the fee to the department for deposit in the Animal Welfare Fund.

## SUMMARY

This bill provides an option for an owner or keeper of a dog to obtain a 3-year license if the dog has received a 3-year rabies vaccine. The bill also establishes a 3-year license fee of \$33 for dogs capable of producing young and \$18 for dogs incapable of producing young.