

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 Enact Requirements Concerning Veterinary Prescriptions

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

Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §4876 is enacted to read:

§ 4876. Disclosure; written prescription

1. Requirement. Prior to selling, dispensing or distributing prescription drugs, medicines, controlled substances or other prescription items, a licensed veterinarian shall:

A. Notify the animal's owner or the person responsible for the animal orally and in writing of the option of obtaining the prescription item from the veterinarian or obtaining the prescription item from a pharmacy of the owner's or responsible party's choice where available; and

B. Whether or not requested by the animal's owner or the person responsible for the animal, provide a written prescription to the owner or person responsible without imposing a fee.

A person who violates this section commits an unfair trade practice in violation of Title 5, section 207.

SUMMARY

This bill requires that prior to selling prescription medication to animal owners, a veterinarian must first inform the owner both orally and in writing of the option to obtain prescription items from a pharmacy of the owner's choice. The bill also requires that, whether or not requested by the animal owner and without imposing a fee, the veterinarian must provide a written prescription to the owner that the owner may elect to have the veterinarian dispense or to have filled at a pharmacy. The bill makes violations subject to the provisions of the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act.