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Date: (Filing No. H- )

**AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
130TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 69, L.D. 103, “An Act To Improve the Animal Welfare Laws ”

Amend the bill in section 4 in paragraph I in the first line (page 1, line 36 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "or" the following: 'prosecutorial experience within'

Amend the bill in section 6 in subsection 1-A in the 2nd line (page 2, line 2 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "over" and inserting the following: ', within 30 days after the dog attains the age of'

Amend the bill in section 6 in subsection 1-A in the 2nd line (page 2, line 2 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "of age" and inserting the following: ';'

Amend the bill by inserting after section 6 the following:

**'Sec. 7. 7 MRSA §3916, sub-§4,** as amended by PL 2005, c. 422, §6, is further amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

An owner or keeper of a cat or dog is exempt from the requirements of subsection 1 if a medical reason exists that precludes the vaccination of the cat or dog. To qualify for this exemption, the owner or keeper must have a written statement signed by a licensed veterinarian that includes a description of the cat or dog and the medical reason that precludes the vaccination.'

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 9 and inserting the following:

**'Sec. 9. 17 MRSA §1011, sub-§2-A** is enacted to read:

**2-A. Animal care facility.** "Animal care facility" means any person that provides care, sustenance, housing, maintenance or other necessary care of an animal and includes, but is not limited to, veterinarians' offices, boarding kennels, equine facilities, animal grooming facilities, animal shelters and animal day care facilities.'

Amend the bill by inserting after section 14 the following:

**'Sec. 15. Transition provision.** An owner or keeper of a dog that is over 3 months of age on the effective date of this Act that has not been vaccinated against rabies shall

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

1 have that dog vaccinated against rabies within 30 days after the effective date of this Act,  
2 unless exempt under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, section 3916, subsection 4.'

3 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section  
4 number to read consecutively.

5 **SUMMARY**

6 The bill allows the Animal Welfare Advisory Council to have as a member a person who  
7 is an attorney with experience in the state court system. This amendment provides that, if  
8 appointed, the attorney must have prosecutorial experience in the state court system.

9 The bill also changes the rabies vaccination requirement to provide that an owner or  
10 keeper of a dog over 3 months of age must have the dog vaccinated. The amendment provides  
11 that the owner or keeper of a dog, within 30 days after the dog attains the age of 3 months, is  
12 required to have that dog vaccinated against rabies.

13 Current law provides that an owner or keeper of a cat is exempt from the rabies  
14 vaccination requirement if a medical reason exists that precludes the vaccination of the cat.  
15 This amendment provides that an owner or keeper of a dog is also exempt from the rabies  
16 vaccination requirement if a medical reason exists that precludes the vaccination of the dog.

17 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**  
18 **(See attached)**