

**CHAPTER 303**  
**CONTROL OF DISEASES**

**§1751. Definitions**

As used in this chapter and chapters 201, 202, 202-A, 207, 301 and 305, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following words have the following meanings. [PL 2005, c. 146, §1 (AMD).]

**1. Commissioner.** "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry or the commissioner's duly authorized agent.  
[RR 2021, c. 1, Pt. B, §126 (COR).]

**2. Domestic animals.** "Domestic animals" means cattle, equines, goats, sheep, swine, cats, dogs, domesticated cervids or other domesticated animals; large game as defined in section 1341, subsection 5; and poultry.  
[PL 2003, c. 386, §13 (AMD).]

**3. Authorized agent.** "Authorized agent" means employees of the department, veterinarians licensed by the State to practice veterinary medicine while performing official duties for the department, employees of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, or other persons designated by the commissioner.  
[PL 2001, c. 572, §24 (AMD).]

**4. Person.** "Person" shall mean the State, any municipality, political subdivision, institution, public or private corporation, individual, partnership or other entity.

**5. Poultry.** "Poultry" means all domesticated birds.

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1971, c. 594, §5 (AMD). PL 1977, c. 78, §29 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 765, §4 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 572, §§23,24 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 386, §13 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 146, §1 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §6 (REV). RR 2021, c. 1, Pt. B, §126 (COR).

**§1752. Rules**

The commissioner shall adopt rules that are necessary for the enforcement of chapters 201, 202, 202-A, 207, 301, 303 and 305. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. [PL 2003, c. 386, §14 (AMD).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1973, c. 625, §39 (AMD). PL 1977, c. 78, §30 (AMD). PL 1977, c. 694, §119 (RPR). PL 2001, c. 572, §25 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 386, §14 (AMD).

**§1753. Duties of commissioner**

The commissioner shall, so far as possible, prevent the introduction and spread of contagious, infectious and parasitic diseases, and exposure thereto, among domestic animals in the State, especially those diseases transmitted to man, either directly or indirectly, and those of greatest economic importance.

The commissioner shall cause investigation and diagnosis to be made by approved methods as to the existence of contagious, infectious and parasitic diseases among domestic animals in the State, and the commissioner may enter any premises, buildings or places, including stockyards, cars, trucks, planes and vessels within any county or part of the State in or at which the commissioner has reason to believe there exists any such disease, and make such investigation, diagnosis or diagnostic tests as to

the existence of disease that the commissioner may consider necessary. [PL 2001, c. 572, §26 (AMD).]

The commissioner shall formulate and apply programs for the control or eradication of any diseases or pathogens as required by the United States Department of Agriculture and any other diseases or pathogens the commissioner considers necessary or practicable to control or eradicate so far as funds are available. [PL 2001, c. 572, §26 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1999, c. 765, §5 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 572, §26 (AMD).

#### **§1754. Responsibility of division chief**

**(REPEALED)**

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1965, c. 513, §10 (AMD). PL 1971, c. 594, §6 (RP).

#### **§1755. Quarantine**

The commissioner may, upon discovery or upon suspicion of the existence of any disease or pathogen among domestic animals or poultry in the State, take whatever action the commissioner considers necessary to prevent possible spread and to control or eradicate the disease or pathogen. Such action may include quarantine of domestic animals, birds, wild animals in captivity and products derived from them, including the quarantine of articles, materials and premises, equipment or areas, for a time and under conditions as the commissioner considers necessary to eradicate or control the disease or pathogen. This quarantine may not be considered licensing or an adjudicatory proceeding, as defined by the Maine Administrative Procedure Act. [PL 2001, c. 572, §27 (AMD).]

Any positive diagnosis of a disease made by recognized procedures by recognized diagnostic laboratories, or by recognized qualified persons, must be considered as official diagnosis until proved otherwise. [PL 2001, c. 572, §27 (AMD).]

Quarantine may be made by registered mail or in person by an authorized agent of the commissioner, or by any other person authorized to do so.

The commissioner may use placards or any other methods considered necessary to give notice or warning of the quarantine. [PL 2001, c. 572, §27 (AMD).]

It is illegal to violate any quarantine by any person, and such violation is punishable by penalties as outlined in section 1706. [PL 2001, c. 572, §27 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 694, §120 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 572, §27 (AMD).

#### **§1756. Appraisal, destruction and indemnity**

Upon discovery of any contagious or infectious disease or pathogen among domestic animals, the commissioner may cause the affected or exposed animals to be appraised and destroyed, and a proper disposition of the carcasses made in accordance with rules and adopted by the commissioner in a manner consistent with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, Title 5, chapter 375. The commissioner shall appraise each domestic animal at its true market value at the time it is condemned, provided that no indemnity may be paid except as established in section 1757 or in state-federal cooperative eradication programs for domestic animals and in those amounts as set by those agreements. In no case may the combined amount received from salvage and state and federal indemnity exceed the amount of appraisal. [PL 2001, c. 572, §28 (AMD).]

Indemnity may not be paid on any domestic animals imported into the State if the importation was in violation of the laws of the State or rules in effect at the time of importation. [PL 2001, c. 572, §28 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1973, c. 41 (AMD). PL 1977, c. 36 (RPR). PL 1977, c. 694, §121 (AMD). PL 1983, c. 747, §1 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 572, §28 (AMD).

#### §1757. Poultry Disease Control Fund

The commissioner shall establish a Poultry Disease Control Fund to be used to detect, prevent, control or eradicate any contagious or infectious poultry disease or pathogen within the State, which may be funded through a legislative appropriation or through money received from other public and private sources, including an assessment on commercial poultry owners. [PL 2001, c. 572, §29 (AMD).]

**1. Authority of the commissioner.** Whenever the commissioner has sufficient reason to believe that a contagious or infectious poultry disease or pathogen has been or may be introduced into the State, the commissioner may:

A. Inspect, cause to be disinfected or require evidence of disinfection of:

(1) All incoming or outgoing vehicles being used to convey poultry, poultry products or materials related to the poultry industry; and

(2) All incoming vehicles that, while carrying other domestic animals during the 30 days immediately prior to their arrival in Maine, stopped within or passed through an area declared quarantined by the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, due to the outbreak of a contagious or infectious poultry disease or pathogen.

Incoming vehicles may be refused entry into the State and outgoing vehicles may be detained within the State until any necessary inspection or disinfection has been performed or any required evidence of inspection or disinfection has been received. [PL 2001, c. 572, §30 (AMD).]

B. Immediately eradicate poultry flocks in which disease or pathogen is found to exist; and [PL 2001, c. 572, §30 (AMD).]

C. After consultation with appropriate industry organizations, indemnify owners of poultry destroyed under paragraph B. The amount of the indemnity must be established by rule adopted in a manner consistent with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, Title 5, chapter 375, provided that the amount of any federal indemnity for the same flock is considered in setting the amount of indemnity under this paragraph. [PL 2001, c. 572, §30 (AMD).]

[PL 2001, c. 572, §30 (AMD).]

**2. Assessment.** The commissioner may, when necessary to carry out the purposes of this section and after consultation with appropriate industry organizations, levy an assessment upon owners of commercial poultry flocks located within the State. The levy shall be made and the amount of the assessment shall be established by rule, adopted in a manner consistent with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, Title 5, chapter 375. In determining the amount of the assessment, the commissioner shall consider flock size, age and type of bird and the financial requirements of the fund provided that the total assessment levied upon the industry shall not exceed \$100,000, and further provided that the assessment levied upon any single owner shall not exceed 25% of the total industry assessment or \$25,000, whichever is smaller.

[PL 1983, c. 747, §2 (NEW).]

**3. Use of fund.** All moneys appropriated and otherwise received under this section shall be credited to the Poultry Disease Control Fund account and shall be nonlapsing. Moneys in the fund may be used for the purposes contained in subsection 1.

[PL 1983, c. 747, §2 (NEW).]

**4. Reversion.** When, in the judgment of the commissioner, the immediate threat of the introduction of a contagious or infectious poultry disease into the State no longer exists and no federal poultry quarantine is in effect in the State, the commissioner may direct that money remaining in the Poultry Disease Control Fund revert to contributors on a pro rata basis according to the amount of contributions made since the establishment of the fund or since the most recent reversion of the fund, whichever has last occurred.

[RR 2021, c. 1, Pt. B, §127 (COR).]

**5. Penalties.** Assessments authorized under subsection 2 may be recovered in a civil action. Any person who violates any provision or any rules adopted under this section shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000 to be recovered in a civil action.

[PL 1983, c. 747, §2 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1983, c. 747, §2 (NEW). PL 2001, c. 572, §§29,30 (AMD). RR 2021, c. 1, Pt. B, §127 (COR).

#### **§1758. Salmonella enteritidis risk reduction and surveillance program**

The commissioner, in cooperation with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Service, shall develop a Salmonella enteritidis risk reduction and surveillance program for poultry. The commissioner shall adopt rules to implement the program. The rules must define the term "commercial egg producer" and establish requirements for participating in the program and a process for monitoring compliance with the program. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A. [PL 2001, c. 91, §1 (NEW).]

Upon final adoption of the rules, participation in the program is mandatory for all commercial egg producers in the State. A commercial egg producer who fails to comply with the requirements of this section and rules adopted pursuant to this section commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture of no more than \$1,000 may be adjudged. [PL 2001, c. 91, §1 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 2001, c. 91, §1 (NEW).

#### **§1759. Vehicle detainment and inspection**

If the commissioner has sufficient reason to believe that a contagious or infectious animal disease that is classified as reportable under section 1801 or a pathogen that is classified as reportable under section 1801 has been or may be introduced into the State, the commissioner may stop and inspect vehicles transporting domestic animals or poultry to ensure that biosecurity procedures, including cleaning and disinfection, outlined by the United States Department of Agriculture have been adhered to and that importation certification documents are in order. [PL 2001, c. 572, §31 (NEW).]

An incoming vehicle may be refused entry into the State and an outgoing vehicle may be detained within the State until any necessary inspection or disinfection has been performed or any required evidence of inspection or disinfection has been received by the commissioner. [PL 2001, c. 572, §31 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 2001, c. 572, §31 (NEW).

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