**An Act To Provide for the Well-being of Companion Animals upon the Dissolution of Marriages**

L.D. 535

Date: (Filing No. S- )

**Judiciary**

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**STATE OF MAINE**

**SENATE**

**130th Legislature**

**First Special Session**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “      ” to S.P. 222, L.D. 535, “An Act To Provide for the Well-being of Companion Animals upon the Dissolution of Marriages”

Amend the bill in section 1 in subsection 10 in the 2nd and 3rd lines (page 1, lines 4 and 5 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "consider the well-being of the companion animal and" and inserting the following: 'award ownership of the companion animal to only one party after considering'

Amend the bill in section 1 in subsection 10 in paragraph A in the first line (page 1, line 6 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "The" the following: 'well-being and'

Amend the bill in section 1 in subsection 10 in paragraph C in the first line (page 1, line 10 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "financially"

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

**SUMMARY**

This amendment is the majority report of the committee. It revises the bill to clarify that, when the court is determining the disposition of property in a divorce or judicial separation, the court is required to award ownership to only one of the parties. This amendment revises the factors to be considered to include the well-being of the companion animal and expands the consideration of a party's ability to support a companion animal to more than just financial support.