

## **132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE**

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

**Legislative Document** 

No. 1057

H.P. 686

House of Representatives, March 14, 2025

**Resolve, to Aid Municipalities, Animal Control Officers and Other Parties in Complying with Electronic Dog Licensing Requirements** 

(EMERGENCY)

Received by the Clerk of the House on March 12, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

R(+ B. Hunt

ROBERT B. HUNT Clerk

Presented by Representative GREENWOOD of Wales.

- 1 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not 2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and
- Whereas, a dog may not be kept within the limits of the State unless the dog has been
  licensed by its owner or keeper in accordance with the laws of this State; and
- 5 Whereas, the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, section 3923-G allows municipalities 6 to participate in an electronic dog licensing project developed and implemented by the 7 Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, and the department gave 8 municipalities a deadline, which has gone by, to implement a specific data management 9 platform; and
- 10 **Whereas,** the implementation of the data management platform has been fraught with 11 challenges; therefore, platform functionality must be ensured and municipalities must be 12 given ample time to make the transition to this new platform; and
- Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it
- 17 Sec. 1. Moratorium. **Resolved:** That the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may not require a municipality that has chosen to participate in 18 the electronic dog licensing project as provided in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, 19 20 section 3923-G to implement PetPoint software or any other data management platform for 21 the purpose of issuing licenses for dogs until one year following the effective date of this 22 section; during this time, the department shall allow these municipalities to use alternative 23 methods for the purposes of issuing dog licenses.
- Sec. 2. User group. Resolved: That the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall establish a software user group consisting of municipal clerks, animal control officers, dog licensing agents and other interested parties from a proportionate number of communities of different sizes to assist with transitioning the issuance of dog licenses to a data management platform.
- Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation
   takes effect when approved.
- 31 SUMMARY
- 32 This resolve provides that the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry 33 may not require a municipality that has chosen to participate in the electronic dog licensing 34 project as provided in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, section 3923-G to implement 35 PetPoint software or any other data management platform for a period of one year. The 36 resolve requires the department to allow these municipalities to use alternative methods for 37 the purposes of issuing dog licenses. The resolve also directs the department to establish a 38 software user group to assist municipalities with the transition to a data management 39 platform.