



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1234

H.P. 782

House of Representatives, March 21, 2023

An Act to Provide Reimbursement for Health Care Expenses of Retired State Police Law Enforcement Dogs

Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative HEPLER of Woolwich.
Cosponsored by Senator LaFOUNTAIN of Kennebec and
Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, CRAY of Palmyra, FAY of Raymond,
GUERRETTE of Caribou, HALL of Wilton, JAUCH of Topsham, STOVER of Boothbay,
Senator: BLACK of Franklin.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §1509-B** is enacted to read:

3 **§1509-B. Health care for retired law enforcement dogs**

4 **1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the
5 following terms have the following meanings.

6 A. "Authorized handler" means a current or former law enforcement officer who was
7 the handler of a retired law enforcement dog during the dog's active service for the law
8 enforcement agency and who is currently responsible for the well-being and health care
9 of the dog.

10 B. "Department" means the Department of Public Safety.

11 C. "Law enforcement dog" has the same meaning as in Title 14, section 164-B,
12 subsection 1, paragraph B.

13 **2. Health care for retired law enforcement dogs.** The department shall pay the health
14 care expenses of a retired law enforcement dog that was used in service by the State Police.
15 Upon submission of receipts of bona fide health care expenses on behalf of the dog, the
16 department shall reimburse the authorized handler of the dog up to \$5,000 per calendar
17 year.

18 **3. Administration.** The department shall administer the payment of health care
19 expenses for retired law enforcement dogs under subsection 2.

20 **4. Rules.** The department may adopt rules to carry out the purposes of this section.
21 Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules under Title 5, chapter
22 375, subchapter 2-A.

23 **SUMMARY**

24 This bill requires the Department of Public Safety to reimburse authorized handlers of
25 retired law enforcement dogs that were used in service by the State Police up to \$5,000 per
26 year for health care expenses of their dogs.