



128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 760

H.P. 540

House of Representatives, March 2, 2017

**An Act To Promote Safety with Respect to Touching Livestock or
Other Animals**

Reference to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative FULLER of Lewiston.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BEEBE-CENTER of Rockland, HANDY of Lewiston,
MONAGHAN of Cape Elizabeth, TEPLER of Topsham, ZEIGLER of Montville.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1562-A** is enacted to read:

3 **§1562-A. Touching livestock and other animals by the general public**

4 **1. Hand washing facilities.** A person who makes livestock or any other animal,
5 including fowl, available for touching by members of the public shall:

6 A. Provide suitable hand washing facilities or disinfectant to allow members of the
7 public to adequately wash or sanitize their hands after touching the livestock or other
8 animal; and

9 B. Display a sign that informs the public of the necessity of washing or sanitizing
10 hands after touching an animal and of the location of hand washing facilities or
11 disinfectant. A sign required under this paragraph must be placed prominently in a
12 location that can be seen by a member of the public who is touching the livestock or
13 other animal and, if the touching occurs in a building or enclosed area, at each
14 entrance and exit of the building or enclosed area.

15 For purposes of this section, "livestock" has the same meaning as in section 2511,
16 subsection 25.

17 **2. Exceptions.** This section does not apply:

18 A. If the animal is a cat, dog or any other animal commonly kept as a domestic pet;
19 or

20 B. If the touching of livestock or another animal is in a private setting by a guest or
21 social invitee of or someone who is familiar with the person who allows the touching
22 of livestock or another animal.

23 **3. Rules.** The department may adopt rules to carry out the purposes of this section.
24 Rules adopted under this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5,
25 chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

26 **SUMMARY**

27 This bill requires a person who makes livestock or any other animal, including fowl,
28 available for touching by the general public to provide suitable hand washing facilities or
29 disinfectant for members of the public to sanitize their hands. The bill also requires that
30 the person post signs at certain places informing the public of the necessity of washing or
31 sanitizing hands after touching animals and of the location of the hand washing facilities
32 or disinfectant. This bill does not apply if the animal that is touched is a cat, dog or other
33 animal commonly used as a domestic pet or if the touching of livestock or other animal is
34 in a private setting by a guest or social invitee of or someone who is familiar with the
35 person who allows the touching of livestock or another animal.