

Kimberly Grindle-Withee  
Appleton  
LD 1771

Senator Talbot Ross, Representative Pluecker, and Members of the ACF Committee,  
I'm writing to express my strong support for L.D. 1771 — An Act to Strengthen Oversight of Kennels by Changing the Licensing Authority from Municipalities to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

Right now, most kennels in Maine are licensed by the state, but some are still handled by individual towns. The problem is that many of these smaller or rural towns don't have the resources—or the dedicated Animal Control Officers—to properly oversee these facilities. That means animals in some kennels aren't getting the protection our laws are meant to ensure.

L.D. 1771 would fix that by bringing all kennels under the same statewide system. This would improve oversight, consistency in inspections, and record-keeping, while also taking pressure off towns that may not have the capacity to handle these responsibilities alone. It's a practical step that benefits animals, communities, and the people working to enforce our animal welfare laws.

Please support this commonsense change and vote to advance L.D. 1771.

Thank you,  
Kimberly Grindle-Withee  
Appleton, Maine