



John Elias Baldacci
Governor

**MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOOD AND RURAL RESOURCES**

Division of Animal Health & Industry
ANIMAL WELFARE PROGRAM
28 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0028
Norma J. Worley, Director



Seth H. Bradstreet, III
Commissioner

March 29, 2010

To all Town Clerks:

REF: Increase in the dog license "late fee" effective March 25, 2010

Many of you are aware that during the 2009 legislative session the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry voted to increase of "late fee" for dog license from \$15 to \$25. Unfortunately due to a clerical error this increase was not reflected in the final bill.

This year the increase was added to LD 1587 (Department Bill) An Act to Amend the Animal Welfare Laws. Because of the loss of revenue to the municipalities from last year's error LD 1587 was passed as an "emergency bill." A "emergency bill" becomes effective the day the Governor signs it which in this case was March 25, 2010.

Please note there was no change in the distribution of the fee and the entire amount stays with your municipality – no portion of this fee comes to the state.

I have included a copy of the LD 1587 which shows the change of law for your review.

Sincerely,

Norma J. Worley
Director

LD 1587 (HP 1125)

"An Act To Amend the Animal Welfare Laws"
(Emergency)

Sponsored by **Representative Wendy Pieh**

Status Summary	
Reference Committee	Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
Last House Action	3/18/2010 - PASSED TO BE ENACTED. Sent for concurrence. ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH.
Last Senate Action	3/22/2010 - PASSED TO BE ENACTED - Emergency - 2/3 Elected Required in concurrence
Last Engrossed by House on	3/9/2010
Last Engrossed by Senate on	3/16/2010
Governor Action Chapter	Signed by the Governor (Emergency Measure) 548
Final Law Type	Public Law
Date	3/25/2010

An Act To Amend the Animal Welfare Laws

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, actions to increase funds available to both the State and municipalities charged with administering and enforcing the animal welfare and dog licensing laws will benefit administration and enforcement of those laws; and

Whereas, Public Law 2009, chapter 343, section 13 inadvertently reduced anticipated revenue to municipalities from the collection of late fees for dog licensing; 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 enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 3. 7 MRSA §3923-A, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2009, c. 343, §13, is further amended to read:

4. Late fees. An owner or keeper required to license a dog under section 3922, subsection 1 or section 3923C, subsection 1 and applying for a license for that dog after January 31st shall pay to the municipal clerk or dog recorder a late fee of ~~\$15~~^{\$25} in addition to the annual license fee paid in accordance with subsection 1 or 2 and section 3923C, subsection 1. The clerk or dog recorder shall deposit all late fees collected under this subsection into the municipality's animal welfare account established in accordance with section 3945.