



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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative GREENWOOD of Wales.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not 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

Whereas, the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, section 3923-G allows municipalities to participate in an electronic dog licensing project developed and implemented by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, and the department gave municipalities a deadline, which has gone by, to implement a specific data management platform; and

Whereas, the implementation of the data management platform has been fraught with challenges; therefore, platform functionality must be ensured and municipalities must be 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

Sec. 1. Moratorium. Resolved: That the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may not require a municipality that has chosen to participate in the electronic dog licensing project as provided in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, section 3923-G to implement PetPoint software or any other data management platform for the purpose of issuing licenses for dogs until one year following the effective date of this section; during this time, the department shall allow these municipalities to use alternative 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.

SUMMARY

This resolve provides that the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may not require a municipality that has chosen to participate in the electronic dog licensing project as provided in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, section 3923-G to implement PetPoint software or any other data management platform for a period of one year. The resolve requires the department to allow these municipalities to use alternative methods for the purposes of issuing dog licenses. The resolve also directs the department to establish a software user group to assist municipalities with the transition to a data management platform.