



# 128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

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Legislative Document

No. 1446

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H.P. 998

House of Representatives, April 13, 2017

**An Act Regarding the Confidentiality of Information in the Animal  
Welfare Laws**

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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 TIMBERLAKE of Turner. (GOVERNOR'S BILL)  
Cosponsored by Senator DAVIS of Piscataquis and  
Representative: KINNEY of Knox, Senator: SAVIELLO of Franklin.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §3909, sub-§6**, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 267, Pt. C, §1, is  
3 amended to read:

4 **6. Confidential information.** The names of and other identifying information about  
5 persons providing information pertaining to criminal or civil cruelty to animals to the  
6 department are confidential information and may not be released.

7 The names of and other identifying information about persons who have contracted with  
8 or been hired by an entity for the purpose of filming or recording business operations of  
9 another entity to provide information pertaining to criminal or civil cruelty to animals to  
10 the department are not confidential information and may be released.

11 **Sec. 2. 17 MRSA §1023, sub-§4**, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 267, Pt. C, §2, is  
12 amended to read:

13 **4. Confidential information.** The names of and other identifying information about  
14 persons providing information pertaining to criminal or civil cruelty to animals to the  
15 Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry are confidential information and  
16 may not be released.

17 The names of and other identifying information about persons who have contracted with  
18 or been hired by an entity for the purpose of filming or recording business operations of  
19 another entity to provide information pertaining to criminal or civil cruelty to animals to  
20 the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry are not confidential  
21 information and may be released.

22 **SUMMARY**

23 This bill provides that the names of and identifying information about persons who  
24 have contracted with or been hired by an entity for the purpose of filming or recording  
25 business operations of another entity to provide information pertaining to criminal or civil  
26 cruelty to animals to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may be  
27 made public.