



# 125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 320**

H.P. 253

House of Representatives, February 7, 2011

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**An Act To Amend Shelter Provisions To Accommodate Rotational  
Grazing of Livestock**

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heather J.R. Priest".

**HEATHER J.R. PRIEST**  
Clerk

Presented by Representative EDGECOMB of Caribou.

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

2           **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §4015, sub-§5,** as amended by PL 1999, c. 765, §10, is further  
3       amended to read:

4           **5. Livestock.** Livestock must be provided with shelter suitable for the health of the  
5       animal. Livestock Except as provided in subsection 5-A, livestock must have access to a  
6       constructed or natural shelter that is large enough to accommodate all livestock  
7       comfortably at one time. The shelter should be well drained and protect the livestock  
8       from direct sun, rain, wind and other inclement weather. Notwithstanding this  
9       subsection, shelter for equines must be provided in accordance with subsection 2,  
10      paragraph B, subparagraph (1). For purposes of this subsection, "livestock" includes  
11      large game as defined in section 1341, subsection 5 kept at a licensed commercial large  
12      game shooting area as defined in section 1341, subsection 1.

13           **Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §4015, sub-§5-A** is enacted to read:

14           **5-A. Livestock maintained under a rotational grazing system.** Notwithstanding  
15      subsection 5, a person is not required to provide shelter for livestock while the animals  
16      are maintained under a rotational grazing system. For the purposes of this subsection,  
17      "rotational grazing system" means the practice of dividing up available pasture into  
18      multiple smaller areas and subsequently moving the animals from one area to another  
19      after a number of days or weeks as determined by forage production.

20           **Sec. 3. 17 MRSA §1037, sub-§5,** as amended by PL 1999, c. 765, §12, is further  
21       amended to read:

22           **5. Livestock.** Livestock must be provided with shelter suitable for the health of the  
23       animal. Livestock Except as provided in subsection 5-A, livestock must have access to a  
24       constructed or natural shelter that is large enough to accommodate all livestock  
25       comfortably at one time. The shelter should be well drained and protect the livestock  
26       from direct sun, rain, wind and other inclement weather. Notwithstanding this  
27       subsection, shelter for equines must be provided in accordance with subsection 2,  
28       paragraph B, subparagraph (1). For purposes of this subsection, "livestock" includes  
29       large game as defined in Title 7, section 1341, subsection 5 kept at a licensed commercial  
30       large game shooting area as defined in Title 7, section 1341, subsection 1.

31           **Sec. 4. 17 MRSA §1037, sub-§5-A** is enacted to read:

32           **5-A. Livestock maintained under a rotational grazing system.** Notwithstanding  
33      subsection 5, a person is not required to provide shelter for livestock while the animals  
34      are maintained under a rotational grazing system. For the purposes of this subsection,  
35      "rotational grazing system" means the practice of dividing up available pasture into  
36      multiple smaller areas and subsequently moving the animals from one area to another  
37      after a number of days or weeks as determined by forage production.

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## **SUMMARY**

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This bill exempts livestock producers from certain shelter requirements for livestock while they are kept under a rotational grazing system.