



126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 1307

S.P. 450

In Senate, April 2, 2013

An Act To Establish the Livestock Damage Compensation Fund

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator JOHNSON of Lincoln.

Cosponsored by Senators: BOYLE of Cumberland, MAZUREK of Knox, Representative:
JONES of Freedom.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §3906-B, sub-§2-A** is enacted to read:

3 **2-A. Livestock Damage Compensation Fund.** There is established within the
4 department the Livestock Damage Compensation Fund. This account does not lapse, but
5 continues from year to year. The commissioner shall pay from the Livestock Damage
6 Compensation Fund compensation to eligible farmers for loss of livestock to predation by
7 coyotes and other wildlife.

8 **Sec. 2. Eligibility for livestock damage compensation.** No later than
9 December 1, 2013, the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall
10 adopt rules governing the use of the Livestock Damage Compensation Fund under the
11 Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, section 3906-B, subsection 2-A. The commissioner shall
12 work with statewide associations representing farming interests to develop eligibility
13 rules for farmers seeking compensation for livestock damage from the Livestock Damage
14 Compensation Fund. In developing the eligibility rules, the commissioner may consider
15 the applicant farmer's adherence to best practices for housing and fencing to prevent
16 livestock loss to predation, the presence of humane predator controls in place at the time
17 of the livestock loss subject to the compensation request and the relationship of the
18 compensation rate to a potential disincentive to the adequate protection of livestock
19 against predation by wildlife.

20 **Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
21 allocations are made.

22 **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF**
23 **Livestock Damage Compensation Fund**

24 Initiative: Appropriates funds for the Livestock Damage Compensation Fund to
25 compensate farmers for livestock damage.

26			
27	GENERAL FUND	2013-14	2014-15
28	All Other	\$150,000	\$200,000
29			
30	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$150,000</u>	<u>\$200,000</u>

31 **SUMMARY**

32 This bill proposes to establish the Livestock Damage Compensation Fund as a
33 nonlapsing fund within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The
34 fund would compensate eligible farmers for damage done to livestock by coyotes and
35 other wildlife. The bill requires the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and
36 Forestry to establish rules governing the Livestock Damage Compensation Fund no later
37 than December 1, 2013.