

Bill #	Committee	Title	Update/Status
<a href="#">157</a>	<a href="#">ACF</a>	An Act To Require the Reporting of Animal Cruelty or Neglect (this bill expands mandatory reporting by vets)	Public hearing held on 2/14 There was quite a bit of opposition to the bill as written at the hearing. Will work with MVMA on possible compromise language (we agree "immediately" should be removed). Work session scheduled for 2/28 @ 1pm
<a href="#">167</a>	ACF	An Act To Fund Animal Control Officers and Animal Shelters (this is a concept bill with no specific language)	The work session will be scheduled for a date following the next AWAC mtg, which was rescheduled for 2/23 due to weather.
<a href="#">245</a>	ACF	An Act To Repeal the Affirmative Defense for Cruelty to Animals (pertains to the agricultural operation affirmative defense)	Public hearing held on 2/14 There was quite a bit of opposition, but some good questions from committee members. MVMA at least seemed open to improved language, but not to complete removal. Work session scheduled for 2/28 @ 1pm
<a href="#">246</a>	ACF	An Act To Provide for the Adoption of Animals Previously Used for Research Purposes (specific to cats and dogs)	Public hearing held on 2/14 HSUS only testimony other than sponsor (submitted bill in response to a letter from NEAVS) in support. AWP opposed since can already be adopted and could be problematic as ME has a licensing requirement orgs that adopt out animals Work session scheduled for 2/28 @ 1pm
<a href="#">396</a>	ACF	<b>An Act To Prohibit Participation of Elephants in Traveling Animal Acts</b>	<b>Public hearing scheduled for 3/2 @ 1pm</b> <b>I'll be sending more info separately about how you can support so be on the lookout for that</b>
<a href="#">508</a>	ACF	An Act Regarding Restrictions on the Purchase of Certain Animals (BY REQUEST – limits the prohibition of selling, displaying, raffling, giving away, etc to the public any live fowl, turtles or rabbits under 8 weeks of age in lots of less than 6 to the 6 weeks before and after Easter Sunday)	No update
<a href="#">548</a>	ACF	An Act To Amend Laws Relating to Agricultural Pulling Events (ACF Dept Bill)	No update
<a href="#">57</a>	<a href="#">ENR</a>	An Act To Phase Out the Use of Single-use Plastic Shopping Bags	No update Majority OUGHT TO PASS vote was in favor of an amended bill that would implement the prohibition once more than 50% of Maine municipalities pass a prohibition or fee ordinance
<a href="#">103</a>	ENR	An Act To Prohibit the Use of Certain Disposable Food Service Containers	Work session rescheduled for 2/27 @ 1pm

<a href="#">11</a>	<a href="#">IFW</a>	RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Establish the Right To Hunt and Fish	No update
<a href="#">35</a>	IFW	Resolve, To Allow the Unlicensed Ownership of Hedgehogs as Pets	No update Bill has been TABLED while IFW completes recommended designation of species for the Category 1 restricted, Category 2 restricted and unrestricted lists.
<a href="#">61</a>	IFW	An Act To Allow Bird Hunting on Sundays by Licensed Hunters Using a Shotgun	No update
<a href="#">62</a>	IFW	An Act To Remove the Prohibition on Baiting Deer	No update
<a href="#">109</a>	IFW	An Act To Allow Sunday Hunting by Landowners and Those with Landowner Permission	No update
<a href="#">189</a>	IFW	An Act To Allow Bird Hunting on Sunday in Aroostook County and Unorganized Townships in Western Maine	No update
<a href="#">190</a>	IFW	An Act To Allow Spearfishing for Northern Pike in Sebago Lake	Work session held on 2/16 @ 2pm Unanimous OUGHT NOT TO PASS vote
<a href="#">276</a>	IFW	An Act To Require a Game Warden's Certificate To Kill Wild Animals Causing Damage to Crops or Orchards and Notification to Nearby Residents	Work session held on 2/16 @ 2pm Majority OUGHT NOT TO PASS vote. Committee to draft ltr to IFW w/ recommendations to address notification issue. If sponsor not approve of ltr, committee will reconsider bill.
<a href="#">278</a>	IFW	An Act To Amend the Hunting Laws as They Pertain to the Training of Dogs (would allow training in an area where it is currently prohibited due to blueberry growers)	Work session held on 2/16 @ 2pm Majority OUGHT NOT TO PASS vote
<a href="#">305</a>	IFW	<b>An Act To Require Permits for Wildlife in Captivity and Notification of the Escape of Wildlife in Captivity</b>	<b>Public hearing scheduled for 2/28 @ 1pm</b>
<a href="#">424</a>	IFW	An Act to Extend the Big Game Season in Coastal Wildlife Management Areas (authorizes Commissioner to allow Sunday hunting on certain lands with landowner permission)	No update
<a href="#">485</a>	IFW	An Act To Allow Migratory Game Birds To Be	No update

		Hunted on Sundays	
<a href="#">552</a>	IFW	An Act To Amend Maine's Fish and Wildlife Licensing Laws (IFW Dept Bill)	No update
<a href="#">558</a>	IFW	An Act to Improve Moose Hunting (under 8 years old can't hunt moose, only participate in lottery)	No update
<a href="#">419</a>	<a href="#">JUD</a>	An Act To Clarify Damages for the Loss of a Dog (expands type of damages allowed)	No update
<a href="#">624*</a>	<a href="#">TRA</a>	An Act Concerning the Transporting of Dogs in Passenger Vehicles (BY REQUEST - Require dogs be tethered in vehicle, prohibit dogs on driver's lap & from putting head out window of moving vehicle)	Bill language released from Revisor's Office
<a href="#">5</a>	<a href="#">VLA</a>	RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Exclude Wildlife Issues from Citizen Initiatives	Public hearing held on 2/15 Lots of persuasive testimony in opposition and with the large number of bills on the initiative & sig gathering process feel it is unlikely that this bill will go anywhere, but will keep on top of it.
<a href="#">31</a>	VLA	RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Require That Signatures on a Direct Initiative of Legislation Come from Each Congressional District	Public hearing held on 2/15 This bill had quite a bit of support in 2015-16 & will likely be the initiative bill most likely to go somewhere this session.
<a href="#">53</a>	VLA	RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Prohibit Payment Per Signature for Citizen Petition Drives	Public hearing held on 2/15 There likely may be federal constitutional issues that will prevent this from going anywhere.
<a href="#">212</a>	VLA	RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Require That Signatures on a Direct Initiative of Legislation Come from Each State Senatorial District	Public hearing held on 2/15 This would be difficult to implement and the CD geographical requirement will likely have more support.

<a href="#">298</a>	VLA	An Act To Limit Agency Expenditures to Influence Elections (would expand restrictions to include ballot campaigns, similar to Federal Hatch Act)	Public hearing held on 2/15 Committee asked a lot of good questions, but not sure if it will get any traction. HSUS pursued this bill in 2015, but it didn't get out of committee. The sponsor, Rep. Chapman, strongly believes in this policy change and brought it back on his own this session. If any of your legislators are VLA committee members it would be great to contact them to urge support.
<a href="#">564</a>	VLA	<b>RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Increase the Number of Signatures Required for a Direct Initiative of Legislation (15% of Presidential votes cast)</b>	<b>Public hearing scheduled for 2/27 @ 10am</b>

You can read the full text and get additional information for any of the bills by going to <http://legislature.maine.gov/> and typing the bill's LD# into the search box. You can also review the directory of bills released from the Revisor's Office at [http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/bills\\_128th/billtexts/](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/bills_128th/billtexts/). So far, over 600 bills have been released.

If you would like to submit testimony on a bill, but are unable to attend the public hearing, you can email your testimony to the appropriate committee clerk. You can find information about the legislative committees at <http://legislature.maine.gov/committee/#Committees>. It's helpful to know which committees your legislators serve on, especially if they are a member of a committee working on these bills. You can look up your legislators here - <http://action.humanesociety.org/site/PageServer?pagename=electedOfficials>.