

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 148

S.P. 54

In Senate, January 13, 2005

An Act To Require Certain Physicians To Provide Information about Thimerosal in Vaccines

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BARTLETT of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative CURLEY of Scarborough and
Senators: DIAMOND of Cumberland, MAYO of Sagadahoc, Representative: PINGREE of
North Haven.

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

2
4
6
8
10
12
14
16
18
20
22
24
26
28
30
32
34
36
38
40
42
44
46
48
50
52

Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §3292-A is enacted to read:

§3292-A. Information regarding thimerosal and other preservatives in vaccines

The following requirements apply with regard to the administration of vaccinations to patients.

1. Poster. The Director of the Bureau of Health within the Department of Health and Human Services shall develop a poster that informs patients of the availability of the brochure prepared under subsection 2 and provides basic information about vaccines containing preservatives, including those that contain and do not contain thimerosal.

2. Brochure. The Director of the Bureau of Health within the Department of Health and Human Services shall develop a brochure that explains the use of thimerosal and other preservatives in vaccines. The brochure must describe what alternatives are available and what potential advantages and disadvantages are posed by the use of thimerosal and those alternatives. The brochure must include the following information:

A. That thimerosal is a preservative that contains 49.6% mercury used in vaccines;

B. A brief history of thimerosal in vaccines, including the request made in 1999 by the Academy of Pediatrics for the voluntary removal of thimerosal from vaccines;

C. The availability of vaccines that do not contain thimerosal;

D. History and factual information regarding thimerosal. This information must be updated periodically to include recent developments in scientific knowledge and any standards of health care practice and legal requirements relevant to thimerosal; and

E. Other information that contributes to the ability of the patient or parent or guardian of the patient to make an informed decision when choosing the type of vaccine to be administered.

3. Physicians' offices. Physicians licensed under this chapter who administer vaccines to patients shall display in their offices the poster prepared under subsection 1 and shall make available for patients or the parents or guardians of patients the brochure prepared under subsection 2.

2 4. Internet. The Department of Health and Human Services
4 shall post on its publicly accessible site on the Internet copies
6 of the poster prepared under subsection 1 and brochure prepared
8 under subsection 2 that are suitable for downloading and printing
by physicians, health care providers, patients, parents and
guardians of patients and other interested parties.

10 SUMMARY

12 This bill requires the Department of Health and Human
14 Services, Bureau of Health to prepare a poster and brochure on
the use of thimerosal and other preservatives in vaccines. The
16 bill requires physicians who administer vaccines to make the
brochure available to patients and to display the poster. The
18 bill requires the brochure and poster to be available on the
Department of Health and Human Services' publicly accessible site
on the Internet.