

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

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Legislative Document

No. 1646

S.P. 643

In Senate, April 15, 2025

### **An Act to Amend Maine's Good Samaritan Laws Regarding Suspected Drug-related Overdoses**

(AFTER DEADLINE)

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Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D M Grant".

DAREK M. GRANT  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland.  
Cosponsored by Representative HASENFUS of Readfield and  
Senators: BEEBE-CENTER of Knox, BENNETT of Oxford, CURRY of Waldo, MOORE of  
Washington, Representatives: BLIER of Buxton, CARLOW of Buxton, CRAFTS of  
Newcastle, LAJOIE of Lewiston.

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

2       **Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §1111-B, first ¶**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 724, §1, is  
3 amended to read:

4       When a medical professional or law enforcement officer has been dispatched to ~~the a~~  
5 ~~location of a medical emergency~~ in response to a call for assistance for a suspected drug-  
6 ~~related overdose or a call for assistance for a person exhibiting symptoms of a drug-related~~  
7 overdose, the following provisions apply to any protected person at the location when the  
8 medical professional or the law enforcement officer arrives. The immunity provisions of  
9 subsections 2 and 3 apply for the duration of the response ~~to the medical emergency~~ and  
10 end when the medical professional or law enforcement officer leaves the location ~~of the~~  
11 ~~medical emergency~~.

12       **Sec. 2. 17-A MRSA §1111-B, sub-§1, ¶D** is enacted to read:

13       D. "Symptom of a drug-related overdose" means any physical, cognitive or behavioral  
14 condition that may reasonably indicate that a person is experiencing a potentially life-  
15 threatening reaction to drug use. This includes, but is not limited to, altered mental  
16 status, such as confusion, disorientation, unresponsiveness, agitation or paranoia;  
17 impaired or irregular breathing, such as shallow, slow, erratic or absent respiration;  
18 abnormal skin appearance, such as discoloration in skin tone, excessive sweating or  
19 clamminess; changes in consciousness, such as unconsciousness, difficulty staying  
20 awake or sudden collapse; involuntary bodily functions, such as vomiting, seizures,  
21 incontinence or loss of motor control; abnormal vocalizations or respiratory sounds,  
22 such as choking, gurgling, gasping or loud snoring and any other symptom that could  
23 reasonably be associated with drug ingestion, use or exposure.

24       **Sec. 3. 17-A MRSA §1111-B, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 724, §1, is  
25 amended to read:

26       **2. Immunity from arrest or prosecution.** Except with regard to an excluded crime,  
27 a protected person is immune from arrest or prosecution for a violation of law if:

28       A. The grounds for the arrest or prosecution are obtained as a result of a medical  
29 professional's or law enforcement officer's responding to a request for ~~medical~~  
30 assistance; or

31       B. The identity of the protected person is learned or the protected person is identified  
32 as a person subject to arrest or prosecution as a result of a medical professional's or law  
33 enforcement officer's responding to a request for ~~medical~~ assistance.

34       **Sec. 4. 17-A MRSA §1111-B, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 724, §1, is  
35 amended to read:

36       **3. Immunity from revocation or termination proceedings.** Except when the charge  
37 or conviction is for an excluded crime, a protected person is immune from revocation  
38 proceedings with regard to conditions of release as described in Title 15, chapter 105-A,  
39 subchapter 5; probation as described in chapter 67, subchapter 1; administrative release as  
40 described in chapter 67, subchapter 2; or supervised community confinement as described  
41 in Title 34-A, section 3036-A and is immune from termination proceedings for deferred  
42 disposition violations as described in chapter 67, subchapter 4 or termination from  
43 community confinement monitoring as described in Title 30-A, section 1659-A, if:

1 A. The grounds for the revocation or termination proceeding against the protected  
2 person are obtained as a result of a medical professional's or law enforcement officer's  
3 responding to a request for ~~medical~~ assistance; or

4 B. The identity of the protected person is learned or the protected person is identified  
5 as a person subject to a revocation or termination proceeding as a result of a medical  
6 professional's or law enforcement officer's responding to a request for ~~medical~~  
7 assistance.

## 8 SUMMARY

9 This bill updates the provisions regarding immunity from arrest, prosecution and  
10 revocation and termination proceedings when assistance has been requested for a suspected  
11 drug-related overdose to remove references to medical emergencies and expands the scope  
12 to include calls for assistance for a person exhibiting symptoms of a drug-related overdose.