

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2026

Legislative Document

No. 2189

H.P. 1470

House of Representatives, February 3, 2026

**An Act to Require Prior Notification of Closures of Labor and
Delivery Units and Changes in Maternity or Newborn Care Services
by Hospitals as Recommended by the Commission to Evaluate the
Scope of Regulatory Review and Oversight over Health Care
Transactions That Impact the Delivery of Health Care Services in
the State**

Reported by Representative MATHIESON of Kittery for the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services pursuant to Resolve 2025, chapter 106, section 8.

Reference to the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services suggested and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

R. B. Hunt
ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §332-A** is enacted to read:

3 **§332-A. Notice of termination of or change in maternity or newborn care services**

4 **1. Termination of maternity or newborn care services.** A hospital shall file with
5 the department at least 120 days prior to the effective date of the termination of maternity
6 or newborn care services a notice setting forth the following information:

- 7 **A. The effective date of the proposed termination and the reason for the termination;**
- 8 **B. The name, title, e-mail address and phone number for a contact person at the**
hospital;
- 9 **C. The hospital's plan for emergency care, including the development and review of**
policy and procedure for maternity emergencies and training for emergency department
and family practice staff on emergency obstetric care;
- 10 **D. A list and descriptions of notifications sent to surrounding hospitals within 50 miles**
and Level II, Level III and Level IV newborn nursery units, to any local emergency
management, fire and law enforcement services and to any registered patients that are
affected by the termination; and
- 11 **E. A description of how the hospital provided public notification of the termination.**

12 **2. Change in level of care of maternity or newborn care services.** A hospital shall
13 file with the department at least 120 days prior to the effective date of a change in the level
14 of care of maternity or newborn care services a notice setting forth the following
15 information:

- 16 **A. The effective date of the proposed change in the level of care and the reason for the**
change;
- 17 **B. The name, title, e-mail address and phone number for a contact person at the**
hospital;
- 18 **C. A list and descriptions of notifications sent to surrounding hospitals within 50 miles**
and Level II, Level III and Level IV newborn nursery units, to any local emergency
management, fire and law enforcement services and to any registered patients that are
affected by the change; and
- 19 **D. A description of how the hospital provided public notification of the change.**

20 **SUMMARY**

21 This bill is reported out by the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage,
22 Insurance and Financial Services pursuant to Resolve 2025, chapter 106 to implement a
23 recommendation from the Commission to Evaluate the Scope of Regulatory Review and
24 Oversight over Health Care Transactions That Impact the Delivery of Health Care Services
25 in the State. The joint standing committee has not taken a position on the substance of this
26 bill. By reporting this bill out, the joint standing committee is not suggesting and does not
27 intend to suggest that it agrees or disagrees with any aspect of this bill; instead, the joint
28 standing committee is reporting the bill out for the sole purpose of having a bill printed that
29 can be referred to a joint standing committee for an appropriate public hearing and

1 subsequent processing in the normal course. The joint standing committee is taking this
2 action to ensure clarity and transparency in the legislative review of the proposals contained
3 in the bill.

4 This bill requires a hospital to provide at least 120 days' notice prior to the termination
5 of maternity or newborn care services or of a change in the level of care a hospital provides
6 for maternity and newborn care services.